

gm

Concerning Termination of private camp leases, the current policy is for all leases to end as of 2039. By 2039, if I live that long, I will be 89 years old, I may or may not be using my camp. However I believe camp leases should continue as long as owners want to continue them. If the idea of eliminating camps is environmental, camps on leased land in "The Great North Woods" has been and will be part of the environment for many years. I see no harm that is caused to the overall ecology of Northern New Hampshire.

✓

As for the stipulation that no camp may be sold or transferred after 2004, I cannot figure out any good reason why this stipulation exists. If someone wants to sell or transfer the ownership of their camp they should be able to without restriction.

On the subject of ATV use in Nash Stream Forest, I think it would be a grave mistake to allow their use. I have seen the damage to trails created in southern New Hampshire.

There are wonderful gated roads and trails to walk peacefully on in Nash Stream. What a shame it would be to have these quiet trails filled with noisy speeding ATV'S.

There is no other outdoor activity which can cause so much damage by so few people.

✓  
Combined into one comment

I realize the local club has said they will be self- policed, I think this will be an impossible task. Where most of the riders will be responsible everyone realizes there are those who will abuse the privilege.

I recently took a walk up West Side Road from the bridge and took a left on what is called Trail 7. I came upon a track of an ATV which had turned around in the trail, as the operator headed back up the trail they must have "got on the throttle" leaving 3 to 4 inch deep ruts in the trail. This is just one ATV. What will large groups do?

I realize that forces greater than me will prevail and ATV use will probably be allowed, if this happens please consider very limited access with 10 mile an hour speed limits. A speed that will allow the operators to enjoy the fantastic beauty of Nash Stream Forest. After all isn't enjoying the outdoors what it is all about.

John Hamilton

Center Strafford , NH 03815

RECEIVED

NOV - 6 2001

D.R.E.D.

Tom



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION of FORESTS and LANDS  
172 Pembroke Road P.O. Box 1856 Concord, New Hampshire 03302-1856

GEORGE M. BALD  
Commissioner

603-271-2214  
FAX: 603-271-6488  
www.nhdfi.org

PHILIP A. BRYCE  
Director

March 18, 2002

Lucy K. Wyman  
[Redacted]  
Lancaster, NH 03584

Dear Ms. Wyman,

Thank you for sending along your thoughts regarding motorized recreational use. I am forwarding your letter along to Rich McLeod, Director of Parks, and Tom Miner, the Forest Management Bureau Administrator (responsible for Nash Stream).

As you may have seen in the papers, we are proceeding with a pilot ATV trail at Nash Stream along the West Side Road. This trail will provide a connector to an adjacent trail system on abutting lands. The pilot will allow us to explore many of the issues you point out in your letter and to document the extent of the impact of ATV use on other resources. We have found a real lack of unbiased information on this issue to date. We are not opening up Nash Stream to ATV use other than on this trail.

You are certain to see ongoing coverage of this issue in the newspaper through the work of the Nash Stream Advisory Committee. If you have additional thoughts, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
  
Philip A. Bryce  
Director

PAB/cc

Forest Protection  
Forest Management

(603) 271-2217  
(603) 271-3456



Land Management  
Community Forestry

(603) 271-3456  
(603) 271-3457

Natural Heritage Inventory (603) 271-3623

To Whom It May Concern:

March 8, 2002

While I may be too late for the recent discussions vis-à-vis ATV use in Nash Stream I would nonetheless like to add my voice to what will inevitably be a long and fractious debate about these machines and their affect on the built and natural environment.

I live on the northeast side of Lancaster. The old Kilkenny railroad bed forms my east boundary. It also serves as a snow mobile trail and a connector to corridor 5 about 1,000 feet south of my property.

While the railroad r.o.w. is impassable in the summer where it crosses the upper Indian Brook, the lower part has until recent years provided good access to the woodlands for pedestrians, skiers, some mt. bikers and an occasional person on horseback. Additionally, the Heritage Trail runs contiguously with this path for a stretch before crossing the outlet of Indian Brook Pond and continuing north.

Within the last 5-8 years this has changed a great deal. Persistent and illegal use of four-wheelers by area youth have turned the smallest puddles into ruts and the larger ones into bottomless mudholes even a horse doesn't wish to traverse. The most adventurous pedestrians must be well shod and walk with great care except perhaps during drought periods.

Four wheel use of the most minimal woods road in the area has also turned ancillary wet areas into muddy trenches, shredded greenery and eroded brook crossings. In less than two years the bridge constructed by the local Heritage Trail Committee was torn apart and replaced by an inferior slab bridge (now gone) which the four-wheeler set deemed better for their use. On a walk along the Israel's River this fall I noticed too, that every accessible sand spit was tracked up by ATV tires.

Now come the snow machines. These last two winters the snow mobile traffic in this town has been untenable for me. I intend to sell my house and move, IF, I can find a quiet corner to which to retreat. My kitchen door reminds me of a child's toy: open the lid and it makes noise. Late into the night and early in the day the machines dominate what was once an acceptable level of noise for an in-town location. From the west the noise of Rte.s 2 and 3 is constant. Now to the east, snow-machines ply the woods, often two, three or four at a time accelerating for half a mile as they head for East Lancaster

The most alarming new development is the overlap between the two: when the conditions for snowmobiles deteriorate sufficiently, the four-wheelers start appearing. Are those of us who enjoy peace and quiet, untrammled snow and clean air to have no respite from these smelly, noisy, pervasive machines?

Some of the issues I have alluded to above, continuous noise, a stinking blue pall that clings to the vegetation and landscape long after the passing of the machine, erosion of trails and plants. Others, like beer cans and bottles thrown into the woods and beaver lodges with tracks around and over them are issues as well. How can we measure the cost to our woodland friends who must suffer this disturbance to their feeding, sleeping and traveling at all hours of the day and night.?

State Fish and Game officers are already overloaded and without additional employees it is impossible for them to police any miscreants. The ATV organizations have many enthusiastic participants who should be drafted to do insure that the law is carried out. Abuses should result in immediate consequences like the closing of trails until the problem is remedied.

When there are changes to our highways, or a new one is built, there are hearings and studies. How is it that so many new highways exist throughout our woodlands that the general population has had no say about establishing. While land owners may give their consent abutters are not consulted but must suffer the results. How is it that communities like

Lancaster are being held hostage to the needs of such an intrusive sport without prior consent? How will this affect the state in the coming years.... one can even hear them hiking up to Greenleaf Hut!

From an environmental and political perspective, how can we justify using precious resources rung from our national landscape and that of other repressive and abusive regimes to destroy our own here in NH? I'm told snowmachines get only 7 mpg and that four-stroke engines "are coming". Why aren't they here now?

Even though I realize mine is a minority voice I know that I am not the only person to move to northern NH within the last twenty-five years to seek clean air, water, and quiet woodlands. While I understand that most people think this business is our economic salvation, I feel it is misled and short-sighted.

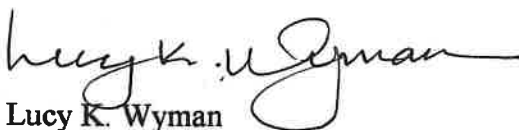
Some provisions should be made for those of us who seek the winter wonderland that once existed in these mountains. In Colorado and Canada highways and railroad r.o.w.'s have been designated as dividers between areas of use: snowmobiles are used to east of the Park Linear north of Montreal, skiers inhabit the west side. In Steamboat Springs' Rabbit Ears Pass the north side of the highway is designated for skiers, the south, for snowmobiles.

Perhaps it would be appropriate to create seasons around the use of these machines as well, not unlike hunting and fishing season. A break in the spring would give the ground a chance to dry out and in the fall, a period of peace and quiet in the woods before the snowmobiles take over for the winter. Or perhaps one day each weekend could be an ATV-free day? That seems equitable, a 50/50 split.

I have been thinking too, that the transportation of snowmobiles could be developed with the renaissance of the railroads. Pickup trucks pulling trailers are notoriously poor on mileage, to say nothing of wear and tear on our roads. Couldn't people load their machines into box cars in Boston and ride in comfort to their destination? At the end of their stay they could load in the same or another location and head home.

For the record, late or not, I'm opposed to the use of ATVs in Nash Stream. There is no National Forest north of Rte. 110 and most land remains in private hands. Nash Stream valley is well-defined and lends itself to clear boundaries. It has a long tradition of hunting, fishing, hiking on the Percys and dips in the falls without marauding ATVs. The loss of Bog Dam silenced the motorboats and cut down on automobile visits. With careful management this repeatedly cut over valley can become a peaceful retreat for those who love the outdoors. Give the ATVs a corridor and you have lost control, they'll want access to each camp and, eventually, connectors to other trails as well.

Sincerely,



Lucy K. Wyman

██████████  
Lancaster, NH 03584

**From:** "Carol Thompson" [REDACTED]  
**To:** <nashstream@dred.state.nh.us>  
**Date:** Thu, Nov 1, 2001 7:07 AM  
**Subject:** nash stream management plan

qu

All terrain vehicles

I feel that I must comment on the use of ATVs in an area where they are currently prohibited. I am sure that there are many responsible users of ATVs. However, there are others who are not responsible and those people who go off trail cause damage to the environment that cannot be repaired.

Many places out West are now trying to limit the use of ATVs that have destroyed miles of desert land. Why add something to this area that is already prohibited. Let the ATVs users use private property for their riding. The vehicles are noisy and disturbing to the wildlife that inhabit the forests and to people who enjoy hiking, camping etc for the peaceful quality of the mountain wilderness.

✓

They are also dangerous to wildlife that cross trails. They pollute. Please do not change the management plan of this area to include ATV use. Hunters will be riding their ATVs to hunt instead of walking and animals will be run down in ways that are not humane.

Carol Thompson  
Coverts Cooperator  
Bath, New Hampshire and Carolina, Rhode Island

**From:** Williamson Scot [REDACTED]  
**To:** <nashstream@dred.state.nh.us>  
**Date:** Thu, Nov 1, 2001 1:03 PM  
**Subject:** comments

gm

1. I have no opposition to opening up the revision process for the NS plan should a significant issue present itself. ✓

2. I see no reason, however, to revise the plan to change the camp policy. ✓

3. ATV use may require revision, but I would offer a different process to determine if revision is needed. Prior to opening up the revision process, I would ask the ATV enthusiasts (most likely the north stratford atv club) to prepare a prospectus on how they intend to perform their policing and stewardship functions should their request for use be granted. Provide that prospectus to the public and weigh public feedback before deciding to open up the revision process. The public needs to see much more detail from the atv club on how they intend to perform before I would recommend that dred resort to the expensive and time-consuming task of revising the plan. ✓

4. Rather than codify the individual uses, I would prefer a special use permitting function be created, once revision was opened up. A special use permit granted to the ATV club, or a special use permit granted to those who wanted to bait bears, would be easier to administer than continually having to revise the NS plan. ✓

DRED needs to do some background work on the issue of ATV use. I submit that self-policing is a nice idea, but very difficult to practice. DRED needs to have in hand some measure of compliance now -- I regularly see atv trails on places they are not supposed to be. I also have witnessed atv damage resulting in increased erosion at Stratford Bog Pond, including joy-riding on the dam. You will need to provide a contrast to the claims of the ATV enthusiasts before giving the decision over to the public for input. ✓  
Scot Williamson

*gm*

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NOV - 1 2001

D.R.E.D.

Thomas S. Meredith  
[REDACTED]  
Milan, NH 03588

New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands  
P.O. Box 1865  
Concord, NH 03302

October 27, 2001

Dear Sir/Madame;

I am writing with regard to the Nash Stream Forest Management Plan and the need for revision. I am a resident of Coos County and have been hiking in the Nash Stream Forest a number of times. In general I see no need to make revisions to the management plan. The current management plan is only six years old and is a balanced plan. There has not been a significant change in the local environmental, economic, or social conditions which would warrant a major change in the overall plan. ✓

I am specifically against opening the Nash Stream area to ATV use. There are already many miles of ATV trails in Coos County. It is well established that ATV use, particularly on small or wet and muddy trails causes extensive erosion and vegetation damage. ✓

Sincerely,



Thomas Meredith

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NOV - 2 2001

D.R.E.D.

October 31, 2001

New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands  
P.O. Box 1856  
Concord, N. H. 03302-1856

Re: Nash Stream Issues

I was only able to attend part of one of the public listening sessions and would like to submit the following as written comment on the issues that face the department and advisory committee with regard to Nash Stream.

Issue #1 - ATV use on the Nash Stream tract. I am not in favor of having ATV trails on this tract of land. Our family has been going to the Nash Stream area, Trio Ponds in particular, since the early 1900's. Over the years, we have seen many changes occur in this area. Since the State purchased this land, we have seen a marked increase in foot, vehicle and snowmachine travel. Which was one of the States initial goals to achieve. We have also seen an increase in trash, camp break ins, and more pressure on the game and fish population. Adding another group into the mix will magnify all of these last three problems, not to mention the damage that these vehicles can do certain times of the year when conditions are soft. This damage happens whether they are driving responsibly or not. This can be verified with any landowner who has let them travel on their land. Also, who is going to effectively enforce the laws that govern this group? Fish and Game officers are already overloaded. Is the State going to hire extra personnel at more cost? To who? If ATV travel is allowed, I do hope as a camp owner that the trails are not set up near the camp owners areas. With the snowmachine corridor trail right in our front yard at camp, it has opened our camps up to be more accessible to everyone and everything. I have seen a compromise in the quality of what use to be a pristine area at the expense of letting "the public enjoy their land" and the almighty dollar. I feel the goal of the State to protect the beauty and ecology of the area will not be met if ATV travel is allowed.

Issue #2 - Changing term camp leases - Aside from the obvious, yes I would like my children and grandchildren to be able to enjoy an area that our family has for almost 100 years. Why not keep collecting the revenues from the leases? It is alot more income generated than from any timber revenues that can be made on this tract.

Issue #3 - Establishing a Mgmt. Plan review schedule - I am not familiar enough with the plan to comment.

Other - Would like to see consideration given to moving the corridor five snowmachine trail away from camp owner areas, but have access to the camps off of the trail. Would like to see more programs to promote the flourishing of the flora and fauna in this area with the same zeal they are using to get the recreational dollar into this area.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my views. I do appreciate the way the State and the Advisory Committee have tried to get the public involved in these issu es. Look forward to seeing what is proposed after the first of the year.

Respectfully,  
Becky Craggy

Groveton, N.H. 03582

*Duplicate email  
comment (attached)*



**From:** "Rebecca Craggy" [REDACTED]  
**To:** <nashstream@dred.state.nh.us>  
**Date:** Tue, Oct 30, 2001 8:10 PM  
**Subject:** Nash Stream Issues

Issue #1 - ATV use

Our family has been going to the Nash Stream area, Trio Ponds in particular, since the early 1900's. Over the years we have seen many changes and accepted them. The use of ATV travel concerns us. When the State purchased this tract of land we saw a marked increase in foot, vehicle and snow machine travel in our area. With this increase also came more camp break ins, trash, more pressure on the game and fish population and a diminished quality of the pristine environment we used to enjoy. We have viewed what ATV traffic can do to a piece of land certain times of the year when the ground is soft and a handful of inconsiderate people travel over it. We are concerned that this will happen to the Nash Stream area. Plus, we want to know how, if ATV travel is approved, are the laws going to be enforced? Place the burden on local Fish and Game officers who are overloaded now? Or, spend more money to hire more enforcement? This land has for the most part seen good stewardship, we would hate to see it impacted even more.

Issue #2 - Change Lease Policy - Definately in favor if changing the policy. The revenues from the camps owners leases far outweighs revenues from timber.

Issue #3 - Mgmt. Plan Schedule - Not familiar enough with this to comment.

Other - Would like to see snow machine corridor trails through this tract of land relocated away from camps, but have trail access from camps to to corridor trails.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns.

Respectfully,

Becky Craggy  
[REDACTED]  
Groveton, N.H. 03582

*Duplicate comment  
provided by letter  
(attached)*  
*gm*

**From:** Nat Bruning [REDACTED]  
**To:** "tminer@dred.state.nh.us" <tminer@dred.state.nh.us>  
**Date:** 10/30/01 1:19PM  
**Subject:** Nash Stream Access

Hello,

Here are my two cents on the opening of Nash Stream to ATVs and extending the lease on camps:

ATVs: I don't like sharing the woods with ATVs. For us non-riders, they only detract for our experience. I will avoid going to areas of wilderness where they have access. In a sense, I see giving them access as taking it away from people like me. They track up , if not tear up the trails. They are noisy and generally unpleasant to be in the woods with. We already share the woods with the snow machines all winter. Let's keep the woods quiet in the spring, summer and fall for those of us who don't need a machine to enjoy the environment. ✓

Camps: I feel less strongly about this issue, but I am concern that people who have a lease feel that they are owed special access to state land. I think the interests of land management should drive the lease decision and not the interest of a privileged few. ✓

Thanks for listening to my input.

Nat Bruning  
[REDACTED]  
Manchester, NH  
03104  
[REDACTED]

**From:** tom linell [REDACTED]  
**To:** <TMiner@dred.state.nh.us>  
**Date:** 10/29/01 10:40AM  
**Subject:** Nash Stream



Dear Mr. Miner :

I strongly support adopting a schedule for review and possible revision of the Nash Stream SF Management Plan. As it is now, revisions can occur with the general public being unaware that revisions are being considered. In the case of the three issues currently before the public, few New Hampshire residents know that these issues are under review. This situation damages the credibility of DRED .



I strongly oppose extending any of the existing camp leases on the Nash Stream tract. I did not support public purchase of the land so that a few leaseholders could have their leases extended, when they had little to no lease security under the former private owner. Camp leases impinge upon the open space potential of the tract and do or may in the future complicate management issues for the State . The Nash Stream Tract should be managed for the majority of New Hampshire citizens ( the landowners) and not for the private benefit of a few.



I strongly oppose the use of ATVs on the Nash Stream State Forest. The fact that more of these eroding machines have been sold in recent years is irrelevant. Buying a machine does not entail buying a place to operate the machine on public land. The State of New Hampshire should not be encouraging in any way the use of these machines. DRED has a sorry record in the control of machines on public land. Its bias in favor of machines is obvious and without merit. You want to increase State income, without doing any comparative economic studies with non- machine( pedestrian) economic uses .



I learned of the opportunity to comment on Nash Stream only through a conversation with a friend .

Sincerely, Thomas A. Linell

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Do You Yahoo!?  
Make a great connection at Yahoo! Personals.  
<http://personals.yahoo.com>

**BETHLEHEM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM  
BETHLEHEM, NH 03574

*pm*

RECEIVED

October 24, 2001

OCT 25 2001

D.R.E.D.

New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands  
P.O. Box 1856  
Concord, NH 03302-1856

**Re: Public input on ATV use Nash Stream Forest and other State Lands**

Hello

The letter is in response to requests for comments on the Nash Stream revision plan, but applies to all State Lands.

The Bethlehem Conservation Commission (BCC) is concerned about the use of ATVs in State of New Hampshire. First and foremost, the BCC believes that there should be a statewide policy rather than a piecemeal plan, which addresses one issue or one state-owned area at a time. The BCC urges you to consider potential damage to trails by ATVs during the snowmobile season, including and especially at the beginning and end of the season when snow cover is thin and gets soft during the day. Moreover, there should be regulations/restrictions during a thaw. Allowing ATVs on some sort of constructed road system would do less damage to the land. ✓

For ATV use on private land, it seems that the Bureau of Trails must be sure, by mailing information and current forms to all snowmobile and ATV clubs, that private landowners know they have an option to choose opening their land to snowmobiles and/or ATVs.

The State should consider the environmental impact of ATV trails. During the spring, in forests and fields many wildlife species are producing young; many birds nest on the ground; what appear to be "mudholes" could be vernal pools or at least small ponds with amphibian reproduction. ✓

The Bureau should also consider the impact of allowing ATVs on trails that are used by hikers, especially with small children and/or dogs, who want an outdoor experience complete with bird watching. ✓

The Bureau of Trails should continue to aid ATV clubs in anyway they can with education courses for all ATV owners, so that they will also be aware of environmental impact. ✓

BCC believes that state-wide policies which include location of future trails is crucial. Perhaps regulations could include certain months that no ATV use is permitted such as March or April through May – times of snowmelt and high erosion/rutting potential. One example might be to divide the State into Districts, as is done for hunting seasons, only on a climatic basis. ✓

Once regulations are in place, the State must enforce the regulations. This will require more people, resources, and money. What about deciding where the needed funds should come from before more trails are opened. Perhaps, ATV registration fees should be increased. ✓

Thank you for providing the opportunity for the BCC to offer our input on the use of ATV's throughout the State.

Sincerely,

*Elise Lawson*

Elise Lawson, Chair  
Bethlehem Conservation Commission

cc Rep. John Alger  
New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

RECEIVED

OCT 24 2001

D.R.E.D.

*White Mt. ATV Club*

RR# 1 Box 124  
Lincoln, N.H.  
03251  
goodies@getglobal.net

October 18, 2001

N.H. Division of Forest and Lands  
Concord, N.H.  
Dear Folks,

*I am writing this in reference to ATV riding on public land. I feel the State of N.H. has an obligation to the thousands of registered ATV owners and that you must be working towards opening more trails for us. We in the Lincoln, Woodstock area have no legal trails on either State or National Forest and that is wrong .It just creates problems all around. One area only an hour away would be Nash Stream, many of us truck our machines to the Groveton and North Strafford area and many of us belong to their club but more trails are needed and where better that Nash Stream It's a lovely area owned by the State you can get there by car, on your mountain bike and on your snowmobile or on foot but don't think about going their on your ATV. Why, you took our money, you told us to form some clubs ,get organized and you'd talk to us. Well we've done those things we now have many, many clubs in the state and many are members of the newly formed Granite State ATV Association. Show us you're willing to work with us on getting some trails opened . So many of the negatives could become positives if there was ample riding. Our club has close to one hundred members, many of us senior citizens who would not be able to get out into the forest without our ATV's. We work very hard to encourage safe and responsible riding. How wonderful it would be to see you working with the national forest people and getting some trails open in our area.*

Sincerely,

*Brenda*  
Brenda Goodbout  
President  
White Mt. ATV Club

RECEIVED

OCT 24 2001

D.R.E.D.

DEAR STATE REPRESENTATIVES :

HAVING LIVED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE ALL MY LIFE I HAVE SOME IDEA ABOUT WHAT IS GOOD AND BAD WITH LIVING HERE. GROVETON , THE TOWN WHERE 51 YEARS OF MY LIFE HAS BEEN SPENT, HAS NOTHING TO DRAW PEOPLE TO THE AREA. THERE ARE VERY FEW FACTORIES, STORES, AND AREAS FOR RECREATION. REBUILDING THE DAM AT NASHSTREAM AND DEVELOPING THE SURROUNDING TERRITORY COULD CHANGE ALL THIS.

BULLDOSING THE LAKE BED, BUILDING A SMALL HYDRO DAM, AND DEVELOPING A RECREATIONAL YEAR ROUND CAMPING AREA WOULD HELP THE WHOLE NORTH COUNTRY, BY CREATING SEVERAL YEAR ROUND JOBS AND GENERATING INCOME THROUGH THESE STATE OWNED FACILITIES.

CAMP LOT LEASES WOULD GENERATE MONEY FROM TAXES, LOCAL BUSINESSES COULD PROSPER FROM SALES AND NEW BUSINESSES WOULD BE CREATED BECAUSE OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND.

REDEVELOPING THE LAKE WILL ALSO HELP WITH FIRE PROTECTION, AND RESCUE OPERATIONS YEAR ROUND. THE WHOLE TRACT OF LAND WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED,JUST THE SECTION AROUND THE LAKEBED ITSELF.

DEVELOPING THE LAKEBED TERRITORY COULD BE WAY MORE BENEFICIAL THAN LEAVING THE PLACE A WASTELAND, AS IT IS NOW, FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUT OF STATERS, GENERATING NO INCOME!

I KNOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST HAVE SEVERAL TYPES OF GRANT MONIES THAT COULD HELP DEFRAY MUCH OF THE COSTS FOR A PROJECT LIKE THIS.

HAD THE STATE INVESTED THE MONEY IT PUT INTO RESEARCHING THIS PROJECT ,A GOOD SHARE OF IT COULD HAVE ALREADY BEEN UP AND RUNNING! GENERATING INCOME, DEVELOPING A STRONGER ECONOMY IN THE NORTH COUNTRY ,CREATING JOBS AND BUSINESSES IN THIS REGION WHICH WOULD, HELP THE GREAT NORTH WOODS !!!

SINCERELY :

SANDOW J. CALL

GROVETON, N. H. 03582 1217

RECEIVED

OCT 24 2001

D.R.E.D.

*gm*

October 22, 2001

Nash Stream-N.H. Division of Forests & Lands  
PO Box 1856  
Concord,N.H. 03302-1856

Dear Sirs,

Our family rides ATV's throughout the year when we are not downhill skiing. We register our ATV's in New Hampshire where we own a vacation home in Woodstock. Riding ATV's is a great family activity whether it be riding secluded trails or attending our local clubs get together. We belong to the White Mountain ATV Club, The Ammonoosuc Valley ATV Club and the Granite State ATV Association. We pay to register our machines in New Hampshire (as well as buying them in N.H.) and we spend a considerable amount of money in New Hampshire every weekend and vacation. We deserve more trails to be open to us to enjoy.

✓

Sincerely,

The Beauvais Family

████████████████████

Lynnfield, Ma. 01940



**From:** [Redacted]  
**To:** <nashstream@dred.state.nh.us>  
**Date:** Tue, Oct 16, 2001 2:21 PM  
**Subject:** Public comments regarding Nash Stream Forest

*gm*

Dear Sirs,

We wish to commend the State of New Hampshire and the Division of Forests and Lands for their good stewardship of the Nash Steam Forest. We also believe that the camp owners assist in this stewardship and play a integral role in maintaining the quality of the Nash Stream Forest.

Understanding that the forest management plan is under review, my family would like to submit the following comments:

We support changes to allow transfer of ownership of camp leases past 2004.

We support changing the camp lease termination from 2039 to indefinite.

We support limited ATV use in the Nash Stream Forest and roadways.

We suggest that the gated roads in Nash Stream be opened during the fall hunting seasons. Sept. 15 through Dec. 15th.

*3 ✓*  
*✓*  
*3 ✓*

The first two comments support the "family" campers and their established heritage and legacies. The majority of camps have been established for over forty years and have been passed down through family generations. There are relatively few camps in the forest; those that remain are maintained by dedicated families that carefully watch over the forest. This is a proud tradition which should be maintained.

ATV usage is controversial, however with specific trails and road boundaries both sides of this issue could be satisfied. ATV permit fees could support funding for forest maintenance.

My last comment would provide greater access to the forest's side roads for elderly hunters and the handicapped. The West side road and the 19 Valley road near Big Nash Bog are both passable to the proper vehicles and offer much hunting and fishing access. Also opening these roads during the fall will keep the roads passable as fire roads. All side roads should be PASS at YOUR OWN RISK with no liability to the State for towing out vehicles not suited for the terrain.

The Nash Stream Forest is an integral part of the lifestyles and livelihood of the North Country. Maintaining campers and recreational users is essential to the financial well-being of the surrounding communities and the forest itself.

Thank you for receiving these comments.

Sincerely,

Stephen W Bushey & Family

[Redacted signature block]

Waterford, CT 06385

formerly [REDACTED]  
Groveton, NH 03582

CC:

[REDACTED]

**From:** "Michael Bennett" [REDACTED]  
**To:** <nashstream@red.state.nh.us>  
**Date:** Sat, Oct 13, 2001 10:04 AM  
**Subject:** ATV use in Nash Stream

*Jan*

I think that ATVing is becoming a big family sport in the north country. If it wasn't for the North Country ATV Club going out and getting permission from private land owners we wouldn't have any place to get out into the woods and enjoy our beautiful land and wildlife. The people are only asking for a way through this land they aren't looking for the use of all of Nash Stream.



I think that people should be able to use public land and the owner to be able to say where we could go. What would the state or government do for public highways if every land owner could stop them from building highways to go to different places to see this beautiful country of OURS !!!!!.

I think this land should be opened to all recreation for people to use what ever there choice may be.

Mike Bennett Fire Chief  
No.Stratford NO.HE.

Bloomfield VT. resident

**CC:** [REDACTED]

**From:** "Ned White" [REDACTED]  
**To:** <nashstream@dred.state.nh.us>  
**Date:** Fri, Oct 5, 2001 4:39 AM  
**Subject:** The future of Nash stream

✓ gm

Dear sirs,

I am very concerned that the Nash stream region will become a private recreational area for the elite of our society, through a continuation of current (bar and gates) practice used by International Paper. As it is now, certain individuals are granted access to the locked gates while locking out all other less fortunate people. there by creating their own hunting and fishing refuge. Please see that ALL gates are removed so as not to allow discrimination against the aged and handicapped. Thank You,

?

Ned V. White Milton NH.

**CC:** "Cory White" [REDACTED]

**From:** "MacGregor/Courtney" [REDACTED]  
**To:** <nashstream@dred.state.nh.us>  
**Date:** Mon, Oct 29, 2001 6:25 PM  
**Subject:** Comments on Nash Stream Forest issues

I'm hoping I'll get back from Concord in time for the Groveton public meeting tomorrow evening, but in case I don't arrive in time, I wanted my comments to be heard on the Nash Stream Forest issues.

Issue #1: NO

I like to hike, take walks, ride my bike and cross country ski. I moved to Lancaster in late 1995. When the first winter rolled around I thought, "I think I'll go see what Nash Stream is all about and do a little cross country skiing". It wasn't long, minutes really, before I realized that you don't go to Nash Stream in the winter unless you're on a snow machine. But I thought to myself, "Dana, it's a State property, you have to share. You can come back next summer".

And so I did. I climbed to the top of Percy Peaks on a beautiful summer day, seeing and hearing 100's of birds along the way. When I got to the top I picked enough wild blueberries to fill my water bottle and make a pie that night. With the handful of other people who had made the climb to the top, and with only the noise of the wind in my ears, I sat on the top of that mountain and took in the stunning view that spreads out in all directions from Percy Peaks.

When fall rolled around, on one of those picture perfect days, I thought, "this would be a great day to go bike riding in Nash Stream". But that day I learned another lesson. You don't go to Nash Stream in the fall unless you have a gun. But again, I thought to myself, "Dana, it's a State property, you have to share. The people on the machines get it in the winter, the people with guns get it in the fall, and you get it in the summer".

So the question becomes, if you open Nash Stream to ATV use, when do I and people like me, people who don't care to navigate Nash Stream on the back of a machine, when do we get OUR turn to use the property?

Will there be a time of year that I can walk a trail or ride a road at Nash Stream that I won't have to worry about a machine that might come around a corner too quickly and run me down? That's why I don't go there now in winter.

Will I be able to observe and listen to the birds? Will the birds continue to return to Nash Stream Forest with all the noise and commotion that is ATVs? Will I be able to sit at the top of Percy Peaks and hear nothing but the wind, or will the whine of ATVs come floating up from below?

And that first sign of spring that I hold so dear, the tiny, delicate Trout Lily. Will it be there, or will it have been smashed under 100s of ATV tires?


The current Nash Stream Management Plan provides for machines in Nash Stream. Those machines are snowmachines, and they're allowed in the

winter when both the damage they can do to the physical environment and the effect they have on wildlife is minimized. While I admire the local ATV club for believing they can police themselves, I think they're being a bit unrealistic. This is a 39,000 acre piece of property. We all know it doesn't take dozens of people on dozens of machines acting irresponsibly to do a lot of damage. It only takes one person on one machine acting irresponsibly to do a tremendous amount of damage in a very short amount of time. Sometimes, that damage is irreversible.

It's time for the State to stand behind the plan that was 7 years in the making. It's time to say NO. Nash Stream is not an appropriate place for ATV use.

Issue #2: YES 

I believe the current Nash Stream lease holders are good advocates for the property and the income those leases brings a good source of revenue.

Issue #3: NO 

Many thanks,

Dana Courtney, Lancaster, NH  


gm

**Department of Resources and Economic Development  
 Division of Forests and Lands  
 Nash Stream Forest Public Information Meeting  
 April 10, 2002  
 Comment Form**

**All Terrain Vehicles** – The proposed Plan revisions would allow ATV use on the property and establishes a pilot ATV trail project. *Do you support the changes as proposed?*

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
Comment:		
<i>Yes - TO RESPONSIBLE AND ORGANIZED ATV USE!            Trails for ATV use is a great idea. It should help keep            ATV'S off of private lands, as long as it's monitored.            A responsible ATV club could prevent a radical shift to the environment.            The trails are to be mostly on existing dirt roads and should not impact the environment.</i>		

**Private Recreation Camp Lot Policy** – The proposed Plan revisions drop the June 30, 2004 transfer restriction and the June 30, 2039 termination date but retains the goal of phasing out the camps by retaining the State's "right of first refusal" upon sale of a camp. *Do you support the changes as proposed?*

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

**Nash Stream Forest Management Plan Revision Schedule** – The proposed Plan revisions establish a 10 year plan revision schedule. *Do you support the changes as proposed?*

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

Do you have additional Comments?

Comment:

Name Leo Laroche Address [REDACTED] Berlin, NH 03570

gm

To: Thomas Miner  
Div. of Forest & Lands

From: Jon Barrows  
NH Sierra Club

Re: Nash Stream Forest  
Management Plan

Date: 4/30/02





# SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

Thomas Miner  
Division of Forests and Lands  
PO Box 1856  
Concord, NH 03302-1856

4/28/02

Dear Mr. Miner,

I am writing on behalf of the NH Sierra Club, with over 5,000 members in NH, in regards to the Nash Stream Forest Plan. We have several serious concerns with the plan, specifically relating to allowing development of ATV trails. First, I think we need to think long and hard about whether Nash Stream is a place appropriate for ATVs, we believe that this outstanding natural area is no place for them. However, if ATVs are to be allowed, there are a number of concerns that need to be addressed.

Chief among these concerns is the lack of baseline data on the Nash Stream forest to adequately determine what impact the new trails and new use would have on the forest. In order to accurately gauge the impact of a new use, you have to know something about the lands in question before the use is allowed; you have to have something to use as comparison. This scientific study has not been done and needs to be before ATVs are allowed into the forest, if they are allowed at all. There are approximately three years remaining for the present management plan, which would be the minimum time needed to develop the necessary scientific baseline.

The current Nash Stream Forest Management Plan, adopted in 1995, calls for much of the necessary study to be conducted, but it appears that so far none of it has occurred. We believe that the development of ATV trails cannot proceed without this baseline. Furthermore, we believe that if any ATV use is to proceed, it should do so as a maximum 3-year pilot program to be presented as part of the next 10-year management plan. We need to be able to reevaluate the use of ATVs much sooner than 10 years, especially if they are having serious negative impacts on the forest ecosystem. We should not lock ourselves into a plan for an entire decade, especially when the impacts are largely unknown.

We are also deeply concerned about monitoring and enforcement if ATVs are allowed into the forest. It is all well and good to state in the plan that they will be monitored and the laws and regulations enforced, but that means nothing if there isn't a concrete plan in place to ensure that this is done and done well. The public deserves to see these plans developed before we make a determination as to whether they are adequate to protect our lands from ATV use on them. Given the fact that the current management plan calls for a number of actions which have yet to take place, we must question the commitment that would be given to monitoring and enforcement plans—the most carefully laid plans mean nothing if they are never implemented.

Sincerely,

Jon Barrows  
Chapter Chair, NH Sierra Club

New Hampshire Sierra Club, 3 Bicentennial Square, Concord, NH 03301

RECEIVED

APR 10 2002

D.R.E.D.

[REDACTED]  
Whitefield, NH 03598-3113  
April 7, 2002

New Hampshire Division of Forest & Lands  
PO Box 1856  
Concord, NH 03302-1856

Dear Sirs:

I would like to enter my comments on the proposed revisions to the management plan for the Nash Stream Forest.

Timber harvesting should continue and all the land should remain open for use by the public and there should be no use fees. If it becomes necessary to charge to use this land then the land should be sold to the highest bidder.

The proposed ATV trail project sounds like a good project. Such a trail would help the economy of the area by having another attraction in the area. There are many ATVer's who would come to this area and vacation if they had a place to ride. The camp leases on this land should stay in effect and maybe other areas should be considered for lease.

Yours truly,



William W. Jones

HB 1273 ITL'd today

included in recorded comments from

**AMC Statement re: revising the Nash Stream Forest Management Plan to allow ATV use – April 10, 2002.**

recreational

Name?  
Bruce  
Glendinning

On behalf of the Appalachian Mountain Club and its 9,500 members in New Hampshire, I am here tonight to share our thoughts on the proposal to revise the Nash Stream Forest Management Plan to allow ATV use. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

The AMC believes that the Nash Stream Forest Plan should not be revised to allow ATV use. This is the first state forest where protecting the integrity of the landscape and the ecological processes within it is unequivocally stated as the primary goal. The Management Plan, adopted less than seven years ago, was developed by a broad coalition including conservation organizations, government agencies, recreation groups, camp owners, forest products officials, and the general public. The core of the Plan is found in the Management Vision, which states that "The management of Nash Stream Forest will be a model of environmentally sound public land stewardship." The Vision also states that management will strive to: "Protect the natural qualities of the land, natural communities, native species and ecological processes", "Manage the land with as little interference as possible with natural functions" and "Continue to offer public access for traditional, low impact, dispersed recreation."

Opening up this forest to ATV use is a radical shift in management from that vision. In comments to the state's legislative ATV study committee, Division of Forests and Lands Director Phil Bryce stated that ATV use should be considered an intensive form of recreation equivalent to downhill ski areas and golf courses. No matter how carefully planned and carried out, ATV use carries a significant risk of environmental damage and conflicts with other uses. The proposed revisions, though focused on a pilot project for a single trail, allow for the possibility of future expansion of an ATV trail system on Nash Stream. We believe that this is completely incompatible with the vision developed for this forest.

~~We recognize that ATV riders are seeking another place to ride their vehicles, but we cannot support this use at Nash Stream Forest. If the State cannot protect our natural areas even when there is a Management Plan as explicit as it is with Nash Stream, then the public should have very little confidence in the State to protect any of its forests or parks.~~

~~We recognize that ATV riders are seeking another place to ride their vehicles, but we cannot support this use at Nash Stream Forest. If the State cannot protect our natural areas even when there is a Management Plan as explicit as it is with Nash Stream, then the public should have very little confidence in the State to protect any of its forests or parks.~~



AUDUBON SOCIETY  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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gm

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APR 11 2002

D.R.E.D.

April 9, 2002

Mr. Phil Bryce  
Department of Resources and Economic Development  
Division of Forests and Lands  
PO Box 1856  
Concord NH 03302-1865

Dear Phil:

As you know, Audubon is newly represented on the Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee by Sylvia Bates, vice-chair of the Board of Audubon. The February meeting was the first she was able to attend. It is my understanding that she left the meeting before the vote on the pilot project, and that she will be unable to attend the next meeting, so I wanted to take this opportunity to offer the perspective of Audubon.

We appreciate and support the statement of the Commissioner, upon release of the evaluation process for establishing ATV trails on state land, that "ATV use on state property requires careful review and an understanding of balancing our responsibilities to provide recreation areas as well as being good stewards of our natural resources."

Our concern with the pilot project is that it meet the fine filter criterion of the evaluation process that "the trail proposal includes a monitoring and response system designed to detect and correct adverse environmental impacts." (Environment/Habitat #2)

We are aware that there is very little good information on the impact of ATV trail use on wildlife. A pilot project on Nash Stream offers the opportunity to improve that information, and we encourage the state to pursue that opportunity with rigor and serious intent. What is learned can greatly facilitate future development of ATV trails in the state.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Moore  
President

Cc: Commissioner George Bald  
Sylvia Bates

qu

RECEIVED

APR 29 2002

D. P. E. D

[Redacted]

Jefferson, NH 03583

4/26/02

NH Division of Forests and Lands  
PO Box 1856  
Concord, NH 03301-1856

Dear Sirs;

This letter is in regard to allowing the use of ATV's in the Nash Stream State Forest. Unfortunately due to other commitments, I was unable to attend the recent hearing on this issue.

I am strongly opposed to allowing ATV use in Nash Stream and all other State owned lands. In the case of Nash Stream especially, where a long public process resulted in a well-founded Management Plan, to subvert that process in clear contradiction of the intent, laid down so few years ago, is most disturbing.

While I recognize that the citizens and visitors of this great State rightly recreate in a broad range of ways, ATV users, with their well documented and long history of problems, ranging from nuisance to serious property damage, should not be allowed to bring these problems to public lands. I can well understand with the recent increase in sales of these machines that outlets for their safe and well-managed use are needed; but to open public lands to this users group, while at the same time private owners are closing lands due to the problems they have experienced, flies in the face of sensibility. ATV users should be better organized, but not to leverage their way onto lands set aside for ecological protection and quiet non-disruptive recreation, but to police their own ranks and establish private parks to pursue their interests.

I have been hiking in the Nash Stream area for years, enjoying many a stroll to the summits of the Percy Peaks. It is a precious resource, one I was glad the State had the vision and support to protect. Yet today, I am likely to be accompanied by the roar, dust and erosion of ATV's... most certainly not something I would like to see or envisioned as even a possibility when the Forest was created with strong public support. I believe that once allowed, it will be nearly impossible to dis-allow, even as evidence of their negative impacts becomes clearly evident. I can guarantee, that despite the best intentions of those users who are responsible and attempting to spread that responsibility to the balance of their cadre, that you will find a significant irresponsible group, most likely unsupervised youths, who will continue to ignore posted regulations, causing significant damage and conflict.

I urge you to remain constant to the principles laid out in the Management Plan and not allow what was wisely and specifically prohibited, the use of ATV's in Nash Stream.

Sincerely;



Paul Cunha  
Jefferson, NH