



Trying Our Best To Make Riding
SAFE / LEGAL / FUN

RECEIVED

SEP 22 1999

D.R.E.D.

Dear Commissioner Bald:

With the support of even the most reluctant landowners in the North Country Town of Stratford, the North Country ATV Club is now looking to the State of New Hampshire for the same consideration. Most of the folks we needed permission from have been treated badly over the years by random running of ATV's and in just the relatively short time we have been allowed trails on their land, we have gained these landowners respect and trust. We accomplished this by establishing a trail on their land and proper signing and therefore controlling the riding to where the landowners preferred.

The North Country ATV Club, with a membership of over 500 was founded about two years ago and in that time we have developed more than 70 miles of ATV trail on private property. In an effort to connect with trails at opposite ends of town (Stratford) the club is asking the Department of Resources and Economic Development for access to approximately 31 acres of the 40,000 acres of land contained within the Nash Stream Forest. The Nash Stream Forest is listed in Chapter Res 100 of the Organizational Rules as established by RSA 12-A:1

Presently the State Forest is not open to ATV use, however, people do ride through it. What the North Country ATV Club is proposing is an endeavor to regulate ATV use by allowing it to happen. Our strategy is very simple, Wise use of the property can be accomplished through education, enforcement and self-policing.



Trying our best to make trails
SAFE-LEGAL-FUN

Ted Burns
Trails Administrator
North Country ATV Club
North Stratford, NH 03590

**TRAILS ARE MADE
SAFE**
By the people who ride them
NOT
The people who make them

Description of use. *** The North Country ATV Club is proposing that a trail system be allowed in the Nash Stream Park. The trails that are needed are primarily apart from the main access road on the easterly side of Nash Stream itself and also quite a distance away from the foot traffic hiking up to the Stratford Peaks, also called Percy Peaks. In making this proposal to lift the prohibition of ATV's in Nash Stream, it must be understood that we are not asking to run just anywhere but only on a very few acres of primarily unused existing snowmachine trails that already are maintained and behind closed gates. These gates you will note are not in compliance with the American Disabilities Act when they completely take away the ability of our handicapped riders to enjoy this state park.

Map of Area enclosed ***

Period of use *** Year-round with the exception of spring closure, after continuous snow cover has melted until May 23, of each calendar year, when mud season is usually over and less trail maintenance would be required.

It is also proposed that there be no time of day restrictions as this does not apply to snowmachining and we are asking to enjoy a very similar form of activity.

Construction and maintenance plans *** There are no plans for either at present, due to us not being allowed in the area. If any construction has to be done, it will most likely be done with the guidance of the Trails Bureau in the Nash Stream State Park. As with any landowner we do not do construction and maintenance without going over the issues with them first.

When construction and or maintenance is performed it will also be done, as in all our other trails, in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the ***Best Management Practices for Erosion Control During Trail Maintenance and Construction Manual***, put out by the Dept. of Resources and Economic Development.

In that all of the trails that we are asking for are currently being used by snowmachine clubs, there will be very little to be done to begin using them.

Safety Considerations *** We are not kids, we place safety at the top of our priorities. We have had several State OHRV Training Courses and stress safety to our riders. One of our club slogans is TRAILS ARE MADE SAFE BY THE PEOPLE WHO RIDE THEM NOT THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THEM. We are quite proud of this and put it on most of our correspondence.

Safety is our primary reason for asking for trails only on the westerly side of Nash Stream, away from both vehicular and foot traffic. We have proven that we can co-exist with both equestrians and hikers without problems. The snowmachine trails on the west side of Nash Stream are behind closed gates which almost completely eliminates all traffic both auto and pedestrians, which makes our proposal safe. In wrapping up the safety issue let it be known that for the most part ATV's are not a high speed vehicle and with proper signing and just a little common sense there should be very few safety problems.

Enforcement and Monitoring plans. *** We believe that we have a much better method of both monitoring and enforcing out trails laws and rules than the State of New Hampshire. It is called peer pressure. When we have had problems on our trails it is far easier to catch someone with several hundred members watching our trails than just a couple of Conservation Officers. Don't get me wrong, we work very closely with our local Fish and Game folks but their somewhat limited in number and they have more burden of proof than we do. By saying this I mean that when we are told of someone riding across a farmers hay field we need less proof to threaten to bar an individual from our trail system, than a Conservation Officer trying to get a conviction. It works great and we have never had it go any further than a warning. You would have to see the results with your own eyes to believe how effective this form of enforcement is. Our local farmers, landowners and Conservation Officers will back us up on this I am sure.

In closing it should be noted that in areas where water bars are damaged or wet areas are muddied up, there is on user group or state agency at present to repair or maintain trails in the summer. This is our strongest point we have in dealing with all of our private landowners and should you as well. The North Country ATV Club is offering you manpower and money to make any necessary repairs and or maintenance of these trails as well as helping police them.

NASH STREAM FOREST

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2 MILES ±

THIS PLAN HAS BEEN UPDATED BY THE
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPT. OF RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEV.
JUNE 1995

COLUMBIA

MORAN
NOTCH

CRANBERRY
BOG NOTCH

ERVINGS
LOC.

WHITCOMB
MT

SNOWMOBILE TRAILS (GROOMED)

- (A) MAX BORDEAU TRAIL
- (B) ANDRITZ LANE
- (C) WEST SIDE TRAIL
- (D) NASH STREAM ROAD
- (E) PICNIC LOOP TRAIL
- (F) CORRIDOR (#5) TRAIL
- (G) TRIO PONDS TRAIL
- (H) MORAN NOTCH TRAIL
- (I) KELSEY NOTCH TRAIL

HIKING TRAILS (MAINTAINED)

- (J) NORTH PERCY PEAK TRAIL
- (K) SUGARLOAF MT. TRAIL
- (L) POND BROOK FALLS

NORTHUMBERLAND

NORTH PERCY
PEAK

SOUTH PERCY
PEAK

STARK

STRAWBERRY MT.

STRAIGHTFORD

LONG MOUNTAIN

LOWER TRIO POND

LITTLE
BOG POND

WHITCOMB
POND

SUGARLOAF

ODELL

STRAWBERRY MT.

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