



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE of the COMMISSIONER

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Commissioner

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March 21, 2007

The Honorable Fred King, Chairman
Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee
PO Box 146
Colebrook, NH 03574-0146

RE: Notice of Decision Regarding Continuation of ATV Trail

Dear Representative King and Members of the Committee

In 2001 the Division of Forests and Lands and the Nash Stream Forest Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) initiated a process to revise the Nash Stream Forest Management Plan (Plan) in response to emerging issues – including growing interest in lifting the prohibition of ATV use on Nash Stream. As a result of public input, in February 2002 the Nash Stream Forest CAC and Division of Forests and Lands recommended revising the Plan to include creation of a pilot ATV trail on the West Side Road and connecting trails through agreement with an established ATV club for a period of 3 to 5 years. An ATV Study Site Committee was charged with reviewing the suitability and impact of the pilot trail project (In 2004 the Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee was created by statute and assumed the responsibilities of the Nash Stream Forest CAC and the ATV study committee.)

In May 2002 the NH Legislature passed House Bill 1273 relative to planning and procedures for state-owned or leased trails for all-terrain vehicles that included language encouraging DRED to *“move forward with the planning and approval process for an appropriate ATV connecting trail in the Nash Stream Forest, in cooperation with a local ATV club.”*

Final updates and revisions to the Plan, including the creation of an ATV trail pilot project, were approved by DRED in June, 2002. The Plan now states “final assessment shall be considered by the Commissioner of DRED to continue or not continue ATV use and trail designation in the Nash Stream Forest.” Bureau of Trails staff performed reconstruction work on the trail throughout June and July, 2002. The trail opened August 1, 2002 and has been open from May 23rd through December 15th each year since. The Stratford ATV Club provides trail maintenance through an agreement with DRED.

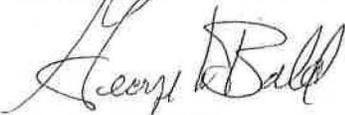
During this pilot period several studies were conducted to assess the impact of the ATV trail on wildlife, noise levels, and surface water. Final results from these studies were presented and discussed at the Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee Meeting held January 25, 2007. The

committee recommended that DRED enter into a 30-day public comment period and pending public comment move forward with a 3-year agreement with the Stratford ATV Club to continue to use, maintain and monitor use of the Nash Stream ATV trail. Notice of the public comment period and copies of the study documents was posted on the Division of Forests and Lands website on February 2, 2007. After 30 days the Department received no comments regarding the Nash Stream ATV trail.

This is to notify you that I have approved continued ATV use at Nash Stream through the development of a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Stratford ATV Club as recommended by the Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee.

Thank you very much for your hard work and thoughtful engagement in assisting this agency in carrying out its duties. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Phil Bryce, Director of Forests and Lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George M. Bald". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

George M. Bald
Commissioner

GMB:SF:lc