



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

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Ms. Kris Pastoriza  
294 Gibson Rd.  
Easton, NH 03580

January 7, 2022

Dear Ms. Pastoriza:

Thank you for your letter of January 3 requesting a meeting of the Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee (NSFCC), Division of Forests & Lands (DFL) and the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources (DNCR) Technical Team regarding concerns about Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles (OHRV) trails on the Forest.

The NSFCC is comprised of public members who represent recreational uses, environmental/ecological, conservation, forest management and other interests. The Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the state agencies responsible for managing Nash Stream Forest. In that role, Committee members are responsible for communicating with their respective constituents to bring ideas, concerns or opportunities for improvement to the attention of the state's resource managers.

The November 17, 2021 NSFCC meeting was the appropriate venue for any committee member to raise a concern and make a motion for action. At the conclusion of that meeting's formal agenda, ample time for public comment was provided; all of which was recorded in the meeting minutes.

Existing OHRV trails are monitored annually by N.H. State Park's Bureau of Trails, DFL and the N.H. Fish and Game (NHFG) staff. An annual report is filed with Council on Resources & Development (CORD), comprised of twelve state agencies "whose responsibilities include providing a forum for interagency communication and cooperation in assuring consistency with established policies relating to the environment, natural resources, and growth management issues." ([www.nh.gov/osi/planning/programs/cord/](http://www.nh.gov/osi/planning/programs/cord/)) Any issues related to OHRV trails on Nash Stream are identified in these reports and have been addressed to the satisfaction of all state agency resource managers and members of CORD. Currently, the Bureau of Trails, DFL and NHFG staff are conducting a two-year field study granted by CORD to quantify site impacts of both Kelsey Notch and Westside OHRV trails.

The issue of the legality of OHRV use at Nash Stream has been well established and documented to CORD's satisfaction in past correspondence with the United States Forest Service (USFS), the easement holder of Nash Stream Forest. See *9-25-01 letter from USFS White Mountain NF Supervisor, Thomas Wagner and follow-up memo from Deputy Associate Regional Attorney, Gene Alan Erl.*

The directors and key staff of NHFG and DNCR are meeting next week and the concerns regarding compliance with RSA 215-A:42 will be discussed.

As you can see, a monitoring and review process is in place for OHRV trails on Nash Stream Forest. Once the two-year field study is concluded, the data will be compiled and presented to CORD. After reviewing the report, a consensus by the resource managers, the NSFCC, CORD and ultimately the DNCR Commissioner will determine the future of these trails.

The next meeting of the NSFCC will be in early November 2022 and will include a briefing of the trail monitoring efforts. At the end of the formal agenda, we can plan for additional time for public comment.

Thank you for bringing these concerns to our attention and for participating in the recent Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee meeting. We look forward to continuing the dialogue with you and all those concerned about the management of this important and highly valued public forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Sarah Stewart  
Commissioner, DNCR