

Nov. 17 Nash Stream DRAFT meeting notes

Committee members present:

Dave Govatski
Elizabeth Bell
Al Cloutier
Normal Cloutier
Jaime Sayen
Dave Govatski
Mike Waddell
Sally Manikian
DNCR employees:
Patrick Hackley
Craig Rennie
Maggie Machinist
Todd Caron
Will Guinn
Clint Savage
Sabrina Stanwood

6:07, meeting started

Dave G. presented a summary of the August field tour. Jaime Sayen asked about the elevation of the softwood control areas. Will Guinn said he would resend the map with the elevation markers. Jaime Sayen had questions about the moose study and spruce budworm.

Maggie gave an update on Forest Management and Road Activities on the property.

There was some road work completed on the main road this year, including ditching, replacing culverts and removing large rocks from the road surface.

There was no mowing this year due to the change in rental agreements.

There were 3 logging jobs that took place this past winter, all went well. (compartment 4, 18 and 22)

There is a sale currently going on in Compartment 6, which is uneven-aged management.

There will be no cutting in Nash Stream this winter and all the trails will be open.

There was a discussion and questions about carbon sequestration from the public and how our management addressed carbon and a discussion about rotation age and tree age.

Trails update-Clint

West Side Trail: There was maintenance completed on Bordeau Trail including rock crushing and grading. In 2021 Trail counters were put out on Bordeau trail on May 23 and closed Dec. 15.- 1,231 ATVs counted.

Kelsey Notch trail: In summer 2022, there were issues with being able to hire contractors (due to changes in state system) to address concerns. The process did not allow hiring of contractors in a timely manner, as well as being short staffed. The trail maintenance that was supposed to be done was not. The plan is to do the work first thing in the spring.

Counters on Kelsey Notch, Corridor B

2022- 12,293 OHRVs

2022 10,167, there were 2,126 less in 2022.

Corridor C: The counter didn't work in 2021. In 2022, there were 11,035 OHRVs.

South to Columbia: On Nov. 11, 2021, the counter stopped working. Was at 12,845. In 2022, 12,194 OHRVs were counted, 651 less than 2021.

Jaime Sayen asked for monitoring reports of the OHRV trails. Maggie and Will responded that the reports are being finalized and are due to CORD by Dec. 15. Some discussion about the difference between a logging road and a trail. Comments from public about concerns over the ATV trail. Jaime requested to be able to review the reports prior to the Nash Stream CAC meeting. Jaime requested that the formal monitoring was completed before maintenance occurred.

Sabrina Stanwood presented about NHB.

NHB was requested to conduct field surveys about possible old growth forest on the west slope of North Percy Peak. Collected vegetation plots and cored trees to determine age. Determined that it was Red spruce dominant, with sizes ranging from 13-20" dbh. Numerous paper birch snags and downed logs, which indicate a maturing forest. Cored 4 red spruce. Field counts between 130 and 160 rings.

Conclusions were that:

- Based on tree ring counts and forest structure, this stand would be considered mature, but not "old growth"
- At establishment, stand likely consisted primarily of a mix of red spruce, balsam fir, and paper birch
- Paper birch has fallen out of stand due to natural mortality, with spruce now the sole canopy dominant
- Absent large-scale disturbances, forest will continue to mature and eventually develop old-growth characteristics.

Next, Sabrina presented on more 2022 field surveys which were focused on an uncommon natural community in New Hampshire (S3) called a **northern hardwood seepage forest**. This natural community is found primarily in northern New Hampshire. It occurs on slopes where groundwater seepage maintains permanently saturated soils. The canopy typically dominated by sugar maple and yellow birch, with some balsam fir and occasionally black ash. There is a very lush and diverse herbaceous layer, often with glade-like canopy openings. This wetland community rarely shows up on National Wetland Inventory maps. Several unnatural wet openings were recorded. It is possible that tree removal on saturated soils may raise the water table, making the sites too wet for tree seedlings to establish and compete with dense herbaceous vegetation. The recovery to a forested wetland structure may take decades, given the impediments to tree seedling establishment.

Jaime Sayen asked about the forest seepage and harvesting. Will Guinn and Sabrina responded that there is a rigorous internal review for any forest activities. Will Guinn stated that there is no interest in operating in saturated soils. Patrick Hackley asked if any evidence of prior harvesting was identified, Sabrina responded that none were observed in the surveyed areas and looking throughout the opening was outside the scope of that field survey work.

Dave Govatski elected chair. Mike Waddell elected vice-chair. Bill Noons retired from outdoor recreation and tourism representative and will possibly be replaced by Susan Wentworth who is waiting for approval.

In other business Jamie still has concerns about the legality of OHRV usage regarding the easement and presented a chronology of NH violation of RSA 215-A:42.

Mike Waddell and Sally Manikian both said that the meetings need better structure in the future. Meeting adjourned at 8:00.

DRAFT