

6:00pm Phil Bryce welcomes the committee members and hands the meeting over to Fred King, the chairman.

Fred King calls the meeting to order

The minutes from the March meeting were approved.

Fred King explains that the main purpose of this particular meeting is to discuss the ATV trail and make a decision on the status.

Forest Management within Nash Stream-

Dave Falkenham discussed timbersales that have been completed since the last meeting.

Maggie Machinist gives a quick presentation on the upcoming timbersale in Compartment 10 for the Winter of 2007/2008.

Fred starts the discussion of the ATV trail, saying that it has been in operation since November 2002 with a 3 year test period.

Phil Bryce reviews the summary of findings about the ATV trail. (handout)
5 Studies were conducted within the pilot period to monitor conditions and aid in decision making.

1- Carol Foss gives a presentation on the bird study that was conducted. According to this study ATV's seemed to have little effect on birds. This study provided good baseline information for future surveys for monitoring or if conditions change or usage change.

2- Phil Bryce gives a summary of the mammal study. The results seem to be inconclusive, there were many problems with the study.

3- Chris Gamache shares the findings from the noise study. Overall, if ATV's stay below 25 mph the sound doesn't register on the noise meter. The greater number of ATV's, obviously increases the noise.

Dave Goulet inquires if Fish and Game has decibel meters, and Chris responds yes.

4- Chris Gamache reviews the results from the Macro-Invertebrate study. Currently there is no written report, but it will be completed soon. Summary shows that there was no negative impact and no change over the course of the 2 year study.

5- Chris Gamache also reviews the results from the Turbidity study. The written report is not completed yet, but no adverse effects were shown.

Dave Falkenham discusses the road and trail maintenance issues.

- The West Side Road went from a winter road to a 4 season road.
- The road needs to be graded at least every two years to keep the crown in the road and minimize erosion.
- Mud flap water bars also need to be cleaned out and maintained.
- Someone needs to be definitively in charge and responsible for maintenance.

Chris Gamache said that in the original agreement maintenance wasn't addressed.

Fred King inquires about funding for the trail from the Trails Bureau. Chris Gamache responds that there is funding, but it is tight.

Dave Goulet and Ted Burns both agree that a user group needs to be responsible for the trail.

Bill Carpenter reviews the contents of the MOA. (handout) Bill thinks the agreement should be continued and possibly enhanced in the future.

The committee reviews the draft recommendation. (handout)

Fred King proposed entering into another 3 year agreement, in which the club will be responsible for maintenance.

Phil Bryce recommends having a 30 day public comment period.

Ted Burns inquires into the 3 year agreement, and questions why the club needs another agreement, he would like to see the trail system become permanent in Nash Stream.

Bill Carpenter replied, saying that MOU's are used all over the state with other ATV clubs and are becoming more common.

Phil Bryce stressed that the state can't permit a trail in perpetuity, especially a property like Nash Stream.

- the Forest Service has an easement
- there is an advisory team
- Overall, more scrutiny associated with the property.

Fred King points out within the easement wording that prohibits agreements longer than 5 years.

Bill Carpenter adds that contracts longer than 3 years have to have G&C approval, and go through a process, which they would like to avoid.

Wink Lees stresses the importance of monitoring wildlife in the future.

Mary Sloate wants the word "thresholds" in part 1B to be defined.

John Lanier agrees that needs to be addressed in the future, after appropriate research has been conducted.

The floor is opened up to the public.

Edith Tucker wants to work into the agreement numbers of ATV's on the property. She feels that the public has been waiting to find the results of this study to see how often the trail is used. She would like to see usage monitored, to get a better idea on the number of recreators on the trail.

Dave Goulet motions to move forward with the 3 year agreement.

Ted Burns seconds the motion.

There will be a 30 day public comment period.

Fred King adjourns the meeting at 8:10