

Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

November 16, 2021 North Country Resource Center 6:00 P.M.

Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee (**NSFCC**)

Nash Stream Forest (NSF)

NSFCC members present:

Albert Cloutier, Tim Emporer, Kevin Evans, Scott Mason, Dave Govatski, Mike Waddell, David Scanlan, Norman Cloutier, Sally Manikian, Jamie Sayen

NSFCC members not present:

Elizabeth Bell, Bill Noons, Commissioner Stewart

Staff members present:

Maggie Machinist, Will Guinn, Clint Savage, Craig Rennie, Patrick Hackley, Jill Kilborn, Dianne Timmins, Steve Sherman, David Smith JR, Mark Ober, Glenn Lucas.

Councilor Joe Kenney was also present

1. Introductions

2. Timber harvests, road maintenance activities, and forest resource - Maggie Machinist

- Remainder of gravel was spread along 14 ½ Road
- Sections of the roads were mowed and Nash Stream Road and 14 ½ Road were graded
- Water bars were re-established in Moran Notch
- Three winter timber sales, two new and one holdover
 - Comp. 3 and 4
 - Comp. 18
- Amos Emery Road snowmobile trail will have re-routes to accommodate shared use with log trucks and Nash Stream Road will be utilized for trucking which will increase snowmobile disruptions. There will be shared sections and re-routes. Camp owners will be allowed to access their camps by snowmobile only.
- Inventory was delayed because no summer crew in 2020
- In 2022, looking to hire two person crew to keep moving forward with forest inventory
- Fish and Game continues fish habitat work and it is the longest running fish research study in New Hampshire.
 - \$2 million on ground research and work, restoration of habitat as result of dam failure

- Research another 10 years
- Annual data collection includes water temperature, habitat surveys, and monitoring restoration

Questions about water temperature overtime and if it has increased as well as if water levels have been measured

John Magee said on the Upper Ammo there is a water depth measuring station that can measure drought, etc over time and is near Nash.

3. NHB Update Patrick Hackley for Sabrina Stanwood

- In 2018 and 2019 754 survey points provided data on plant species, vegetation and topographical data. Northern hardwood is the most prevalent species in NSF. In 2019 the largest seepage forest in the state was documented within NSF, greater than 200 acres.
 - In 2022 they will continue refining by doing additional surveys
- Jamie Sayen- Questions on disturbed area from dam blowout, are records on regeneration being kept since dam let go?

4. Kelsey Notch OHRV trails status update and revised southern connector OHRV trail proposal- Clinton Savage

- Since 2019, 5 bridges have been rebuilt along the trail, gravelling, and grading
 - Identification of invasive species along the trail- phragmites was treated with glyphosate in 2021.
- Kevin -Question about if equipment gets washed before moving onto property. The State has been discussing it. Already the practice for Forestry equipment.
- 2021 A new southern connector OHRV trail was proposed to provide an alternate north/south route to gas pumps
 - New proposal lessens impacts on NSF because it eliminates shared use on the main road and the proposed location in on existing roads and trails
 - Questions on ethical decision to spend money on a proposed trail that at the time cannot be constructed due to one out of the 14 private landowners not allowing permission for the new southern connector trail
 - Jamie asked if the landowner has provided permission and Clint said that has not changed. Jamie said can't move forward because there is no permission and the state should not spend time and money. Private landowners should not be pressured to do so.
 - Will Guinn said data collected is important to the West Side Rd trail
 - Jamie said there is no baseline data on current use and amount of traffic. Spending time working on the southern connector is a disservice to the state.
 - David Scanlon asked what is the role of committee on private ownership?
 - Maggie said none- considering state land only but need to be aware the permissions are not in place off of the property.
 - Mike Waddell encourage trails bureau to continue working with landowners and it seemed unobtrusive
 - Dave G asked about the lengths of the roads, West Side is 7, Bordeaux is 2 and the connector is 1,700 feet

- Sally asked what type of road surface and Maggie said some gravel but winter snowmobile road. She also asked how it is funded and Clint told her through the club
- Kevin concerned about impact along 9 miles of Nash Stream stated there is a difference between snowmobile trail and OHRV trail because of erosion and sedimentation risk. Clint said they are working to address those issues
- Kevin said that currently they can't definitively say that they are not putting silt into the brook

Tech Team Review- Maggie Machinist

- Maggie talked about Tech Team review of OHRV use in NSF and concerns in overall increase OHRV traffic because of proposed thru trail, diminished experience to other forests users. Recommend OHRV counters outside of NSF to study local traffic patterns, survey vernal pools in the area, survey potential impacts to wildlife, possible sedimentation in Nash Stream on the proposed trail and length of West Side Trail. The higher risk of increased impacts is the West Side Road because it parallels Nash Stream. Clint said traffic counters on each trail can analyze times of heavy use. Fish and Game has been more recently monitoring water quality along Kelsey Notch Trail by direct observation.
 - Kevin asked if the other proposal is dead (original southern connector) and Will said there is very little enthusiasm on the original proposal.
 - Jamie said that currently, RSA 215-A:42 is not being followed and we should not allow for an increase in OHRV trails until there is adequate staff and funding to address the monitoring and enforcement in the RSA.
- Question regarding water quality and if it had been measured over the years.
- John Magee said there is no current measures of turbidity and nothing is rigorous enough to say OHRVs are an issue
 - Annual site visits are important for monitoring (meaning observation by staff is very telling if sediment is moving and getting into the brooks)
 - Motion made to follow through with monitoring on the southern connector trail and follow through with staff recommendations and passed (Motion by Mike Waddell)
 - Motion for no further work on southern connector- failed (Motion by Jamie Sayen)

Public Comments:

Skylar Sweet- Trout Unlimited said it is a tough decision and should consider the eastern brook trout and the money spent over the years on Nash Forest

Wayne Monihan of Dummer lives on corridor D thought it would increase traffic onto Stark town roads and will end up with a road system that are town roads and what the impacts are going to be to the people that live on those roads.

Jim Walsh of Stark lives on affected road and says it will reduce traffic on certain town roads because it will bypass town roads and put OHRVs back in the woods

Kevin Spotiswood one of the 14 landowners in Stark and an ATV club member asked to consider proposal

Kris Pastoriza of Easton says we're coming at it backwards and need to prove that the trail will not cause issues before allowing it on Nash Stream Forest. Kelsey Notch Trail was supposed to be the last trail. Climate change is an issue and is not being considered. The OHRVS will do damage. Natural resource professionals are supposed to defend the resource.

Lucy Wyman of Lancaster said Kelsey Notch Trail is a wide truck road and not a trail. What is the point of RSA 215-A:42 if it's not paid attention to?

DRAFT