

12/11/98
Revised

Presidential Range Rail Trail Management Plan

This recreational trail lies upon an abandoned railroad Right of Way (R.O.W.) between Big Cherry Pond and the Town of Gorham, New Hampshire. It has much historic value having first been used as a logging railroad. Upon abandonment by the Vermont - New Hampshire Railroad the R.O.W. has been purchased by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's Bureau of Railroads and Public Transportation and turned over to New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development to be managed by the Trails Bureau for recreational use.

Right of Way

The rail corridor, (right of way) as purchased, to remain intact. There will be no bypass sections allowed. Houses close to the R.O.W. may be separated from the trail by a fence or planting of trees if the Trails Bureau upon meeting with the property owner, finds such action necessary. Any fence or tree plantings will be done on a cost share 50/50 basis with the property owner.

Landowners who own land on both sides of the R.O.W. may request a crossing of the corridor. The Trails Bureau to meet with landowner and decide where the crossing will be located, and any regulations relative to use that might be required, landowner crossings to be gated at the landowners expense. Gates to be approved by the Trails Bureau. No permanent crossings of the R.O.W. will be approved. Waterlines and underground power lines will be allowed only after approval by the Trails Bureau.

All access points that could be used by motor vehicles will be closed by gates erected by the Trails Bureau. The Bureau decides which gates are to be locked and available to Police, Fire, and Emergency personnel.

Public Parking - The Trails Bureau will provide at least three (3) public parking areas for access to the trail. If only three areas are approved one will be located in each of the three towns involved with R.O.W. - Jefferson, Randolph, Gorham.

Picnic sites with table, and pullouts may be established if the Trails Bureau decides the need. Any picnic sites approved to be developed and maintained under an agreement with a town or organized club and the Bureau.

Food Concessions, and sale of items, to be allowed only under an agreement between the Bureau and local club or organization, with a percentage of any profits to be used for trail maintenance.

The Bureau will provide the Towns of Jefferson, Randolph and Gorham with maps or drawings of the railroad right of way, if available, and requested by said town officials for the section within this said town.

The Trails bureau will have the authority to enter into agreements with town officials, clubs, or organized groups, for trail development and maintenance.

Within the Right of Way Summer Use

- * The entire trail may be used by persons on foot at all times.
- * Bicycles may be used at any time.
- * Dog teams pulling a wheeled vehicle for training purpose will be a permitted use.
- * Maintenance vehicles, fire, police and emergency vehicles shall be permitted to carry out their duties.
- * Horses will be allowed in the non-snow season from the town of Gorham to NH route 115 in Jefferson.
- * No horse drawn wagon or conveyance will be allowed at any time other than by special use permit.
- * OHRV's will not be allowed at any time.

Winter use

- * Cross Country ski and snow shoe use permitted at all times.
- * Dog teams are permitted use at all times.
- * Registered snowmobiles and ATV's shall be permitted when covered with snow with a maximum speed limit of 45 mph. Snowmobiles and ATV's operating in highly developed areas will do so at a reduced rate of speed. These areas shall be signed by the Bureau of Trails.
- * Trail bikes will not be permitted.
- * Horses and sleighs not permitted other than by special use permit.

General Provisions

The Trails Bureau may develop and make available a section of the trail barrier free and accessible for the use of the disabled if such use is warranted.

All necessary signs, ie: speed and other regulations, will be provided by the Bureau and placed at parking lots and other appropriate places.

Law enforcement of all trail rules and regulations may be enforced by all duly authorized representatives of the Department of Fish and Game and by every police and law enforcement officer empowered to make arrests.

The Bureau, with the assistance of others, will develop a historical plan that includes the preservation of any items such as mile posts, etc, found within the R.O.W. This plan will include interpretive signs where appropriate.

The Bureau may establish an Advisory Committee made up of people from the Towns of Jefferson, Randolph and Gorham. The members of this Committee, not to exceed nine (9), to be people with an interest in the various uses of this recreational trail. The bureau will appoint the Chair person of this advisory Committee. Meetings will be called at the request of the Bureau Chief and or the Chair Person.