



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
BUREAU OF TRAILS

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Bureau of Trails

Report for the NHOHVA Quarterly BOD meeting, August, 2016

- Summer has been very busy with high volumes of riders coming north to ride each weekend. We have received few major complaints about issues to date. Dust is the major issue this year due to the drought conditions.
- Bureau staff is continuing with trail maintenance this summer, but are getting backlogged with landowner requests for maintenance projects. The unseasonably dry weather is having a direct impact on trails and most dirt work is not having the desired affect for repairs. Clubs are also finding the lack of moisture in the soil difficult to work with and the soil is not able to compact without moisture. Clubs should continue with projects requested and billings into the Bureau once the work is done. Several large landowners have noted the impacts from the volume of traffic and dry conditions and clubs must be reactive to landowner needs and trail maintenance needs.
- DOT/Safety permits for continued use of Rte 3 in downtown Groveton through 2016 has been approved, and a 2-year permit for use of the entire length of Rte 110B in Milan has been approved and the road has been signed open. Permit requests for use of West Road, Clarksville, and a portion of Rte 2 in Shelburne were not approved.
- Bureau has met with commercial timber companies in Coos County for this summer season and there will be little impact to trails from logging operations. These landowners however have relayed to us once again that Trail Bike use is not permitted on their properties, per their client's wishes. They have also indicated to us that they will not be approving additional trails on their lands and that if we want to keep some current routes open, which they would otherwise be closing out, the OHRV program will need to bear the expense for all maintenance and road work. Many of these companies have also had their road maintenance budgets cut this summer.
- The Town of Claremont's request for a waiver from the Federal Highway Administration to continue OHRV use on a section of rail corridor, which the City purchased with FHWA funds, was denied. State, City and club officials are meeting later this month to determine the next action to pursue, if any.
- The Town of Haverhill was sent a letter by NHDOT to stop OHRV use on the Blackmount Line rail trail, which connects to the Ammonoosuc Recreational Rail Trail in Woodsville. The Town purchased the rail corridor with the same federal funding that the City of Claremont purchased theirs with. There is a Federal restriction against 'motorized wheeled vehicles' on properties purchased with funds from that particular program (same program used by Claremont).
- Recreational Trails Program grant applications are being scored this week and applicants will be notified of grant approvals/denials by the end of August.
- Jericho ATV Festival went well this past weekend and planning is still underway for the upcoming Polaris Camp RZR event at Jericho in late September.
- Two major planning initiatives for specific properties will be going on in 2016: Nash Stream Forest and Connecticut Lake Headwaters. Both have OHRV expansion proposals and clubs

& NHOHVA will need to be involved in the public input processes. Nash Stream trails existence has been challenged by AMC, SPNHF and TNC. The organizations have asked another committee that has some oversight on Nash Stream Forest to find that the trails should never have been approved or put in the forest.

- North Country Council has applied for grant funding to conduct a North Country Trail Plan. First part likely to look at OHRV use on highways. The NCC has put out traffic counters in Gorham to get some trail use figures for this summer. Planning on where trails/connections need to go in future is truly needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Gamache", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Chris Gamache
Chief