

## Kelsey Notch Trail Environmental Compliance Report 2025

Contents	
Introduction .....	1
Overview of OHRV Trails in this report.....	2
Summary for the year .....	3

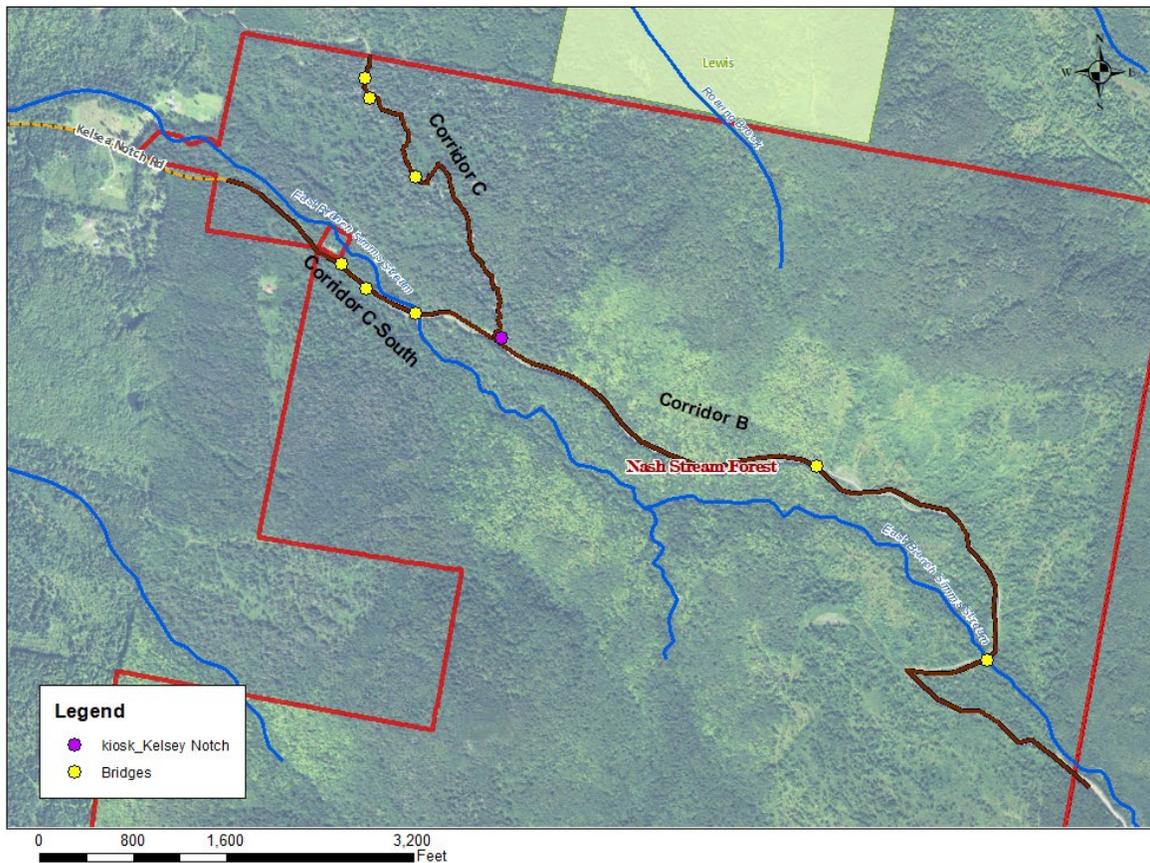
### Introduction

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) is required to submit an environmental compliance report to the New Hampshire Council on Resources and Development (CORD) annually. The Council on Resources and Development provides a forum for interagency cooperation in assuring consistency with established policies relating to the environment, natural resources, and growth management issues under RSA 162-C. This report is a requirement of the conditional approval voted on by CORD on March 11, 2021 (<https://www.nheconomy.com/getmedia/cf511942-6bfb-4a9d-9742-46ccfa945ed9/20210311-minutes.pdf>), and subsequent letter by CORD, dated March 29, 2021 for the Kelsey Notch Trail.

The full motion that was approved by a majority vote at the March 9, 2023 CORD meeting was:

“Department of Natural and Cultural Resources officially recognizes the Kelsey Notch Trail as a designated trail on the condition that monitoring occur twice annually during the riding season and that year-end maintenance work, if needed, be done prior to seasonal trail closure. The first monitoring visit would be conducted in mid-July at/near the peak of riding activity followed by a second visit in late October, just prior to year-end maintenance and close-out. The monitoring team would consist of North Region representatives from the Division of Forests & Lands, Fish & Game, and Bureau of Trails. If any significant erosion or other environmental impacts are observed at any monitoring visit, those conditions would be addressed as promptly as the state contracting process will allow. A comprehensive monitoring report will be submitted to CORD annually. Should monitoring indicate persistent unmitigated issues of soil erosion, water quality violations, or other significant environmental impacts, the status of the trail on Nash Stream Forest will be reassessed by CORD and DNCR. However, the (Fish and Game) Department continues to have concerns on the impact of ATV noise on the high-volume trail use days during the nesting season, particular during spring and early summer month as stated in the 2022 monitoring report. NHFG ask that these concerns remain in the annual monitoring reports until such time that there is an effective strategy or method to evaluate these impacts and determine if tail use should be reduced, restricted, or otherwise managed to reduce impacts if any are found.”

## Overview of OHRV Trails in this report



*Figure 1- Depicts the trail map*

There are three sections of trail that are referred to throughout this document: Corridor B, Corridor C-North and Corridor C-South.

Corridor B – The section of trail known as Corridor B, starts at the kiosk and heads east to the top of the hill and boundary line with Wagner Forest Management. This trail is mostly an old logging road approximately half of it is graveled.

Corridor C – This section of trail heads north from the kiosk toward Diamond Peaks Store and is a major connector to points north such as Colebrook and Pittsburg. This trail was not previously a road and it is more narrow and not graveled like the other trails.

Corridor C-South – This section of trail is the east/west trail from Kelsey Notch Road and Bungy Road and leads to points south. Sections of this trail were existing road and used for logging in the past and most of it is graveled.

Table 1- Depicts the Trail Count Data for 2025 and previous years.

<b><u>Nash Stream Trail Count Data</u></b>					
<b><u>Trail name</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2025</u></b>
Kelsey Corr B	12293	10167	9798	11855	10069
Kelsey Corr C North	counter error	11035	11022	12118	3505
Kelsey Corr C South	4845	4194	4437	4491	4410

Each year recommendations are made to serve as action items for the following season or if necessary to be dealt with immediately, if there is a more significant issue. Below are the action items from the 2024 report.

**2024 Recommendations**

- *Make sure the ditches and culverts are cleaned out and there are no obstructions following large rain events like the one in July, 2024.*
- *Treat the australis phragmites and continue to monitor the invasive species so that it does not spread.*
- *Repair bridges that had broken railings (see photos below)*
- *Repair broken culverts from maintenance work.*



Figure 1- Depicts the broken bridge from 2024.

**Summary for 2025**

Dates of Field Visits- July 17, 2025 and October 31, 2025

Staff in attendance- Jake DeBow (NHFG-Regional Wildlife Biologist), Molly McKeon (NHFG-Fisheries Biologist), Clint Savage (NH Trails Bureau-Regional Supervisor), and Maggie Machinist (NH Forests and Lands-Regional Forester)

The Kelsey Notch Trail opened on May 23, 2025. During Memorial Day weekend, there was a large rain event and Corridor C North received a lot of damage which resulted in the trail being

closed until repairs were made. The trail was closed for a couple of weeks while the Trails Bureau repaired the damage.

On **July 17, 2025** F&G, Trails Bureau and Forests and Lands went out for the first monitoring trip. The ditches and catch basins were filled with a significant amount of sediment signifying there was runoff that occurred, probably from the larger rain event around Memorial Day. The trail surface had mostly been repaired since that storm but there was still evidence from it.



*Figure 2 & 3 - Depicts filled ditch lines and sediment traps from runoff*

In 2024, it was noted that there were two bridges that had broken pieces on the edge where the “wheel curb” is located. None of these broken pieces affect the integrity or functionality of the bridge but should be fixed for safety reasons at some point. These had still not been fixed as of our July visit.

Overall, the surface of the trail was in good condition but there was significant work that occurred at the beginning of the season due to the rain event. There was a large berm that was evident on the sharp corner leading up into Kelsey Notch. (Figure 5)

The difficult aspect of OHRV trails is that they take significant maintenance to keep them in good condition. Water bars are considered more dangerous for riders so are not present and the rubber water diversion devices are time consuming to maintain. Unfortunately, erosion and sedimentation is common with these types of trails.



*Figure 4 & 5- Depicts sections of broken bridges that need repair*



*Figure 6- Depicts large berm on corner of trail*

On **October 31, 2025**, the second monitoring trip took place. The trail had just had its yearly maintenance so the trail was in pretty good shape despite it raining that day.



*Figure 7 & 8- Shows the condition of the trail surface*

In 2020, *Phragmites australis* was found onsite. These areas were treated on September 3, 2021, with glyphosate by Fish and Game staff who are licensed pesticide applicators. During our 2022 visit no plants were found., However in 2023 a new site was located. This will continue to be monitored by Forests and Lands and Fish and Game staff. The *phragmites australis* was not treated in 2024 or 2025 but continues to be documented. Currently, there is no one on staff who is certified to treat invasives out of the North Region office.



*Figure 9 & 10- Shows picture of phragmites that was found during the monitoring trip.*



*Figure 11 & 12- Depicts straw waddle added after the trail maintenance work to minimize erosion.*

A recommendation of the 2023 report was to add additional erosion control devices around one of the larger culverts that has water running continuously. The Trails Bureau continues to add straw waddles, however, the waddles that were added in 2025 weren't catching the runoff, making them not as effective.

There continues to be runoff and sedimentation during rain events. Typically the sediment is being collected in the ditches and catch basins but sometimes it does get into the smaller streams.



*Figure 13 & 14- Depicts the runoff that occurs during rain events.*



*Figure 15- Depicts the repairs that were made to the bridge.*

Work Completed - In October, Trails Bureau staff did their annual maintenance which included grading, using rock crusher, rock raking and repairing some of the bridges that needed attention.

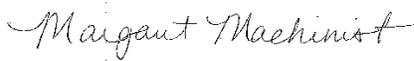
### **2025 Recommendations**

- Make sure the ditches and culverts are cleaned out and there are no obstructions following large rain events.
- Treat the australis phragmites and continue to monitor the invasive species so that it does not spread.
- Place straw waddles on the upslope side so that runoff does not go around waddle.

- Pick up discarded wood after construction projects.

Fish and Game continues to have concern regarding wildlife impact of ATV noise during high volume trail use days. This is of particular concern during spring and early summer months (May/June) when song birds are nesting/ fledging and mammals are in the early days of raising young. For example, based on trip counter data Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday May 29<sup>th</sup> of 2022 saw 427 and 629 trips respectfully on the Corridor C North trail. It is conceivable that >1000 trips of ATV's during a two-day period could be disruptive during the calving period for animals like deer and moose. The overall season numbers were even higher this year, which could correlate to more trips on busy weekends like Memorial Day but that data was not teased out for this year.

The trail is currently closed for the season until the spring of 2026, when conditions allow but not before Memorial Day weekend.



---

Margaret Machinist, Regional Forester



---

Clint Savage, Trails Bureau District Supervisor



---

Jake DeBow, Regional Wildlife Biologist



---

Molly McKeon, Fisheries Biologist