



CLHCC RECREATION & PUBLIC USE SUBCOMMITTEE

September 27, 2023, 8:30am

Pittsburg Ridge Runners Clubhouse

17 Dickson Lane, Pittsburg NH

In Attendance

Members	Staff
Charlie Levesque	Jake DeBow, NHFG
Harry Brown	Maggie Machinist, DFL
Darrin Jock	Johanna Lyons, DPR
Eric Stohl	Clint Savage, BoT
Shawn Hagan	Dwayne Covell, BoT
Ray Gorman	Brian Parise, DPR
	Mike Eastman, NHFG
	Mark Ober, NHFG
	Bennett Lohmeyer, LandVest

- I. Pledge of Allegiance

- II. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Charlie welcomed the members, staff and public attendees and reminded the committee what the purpose and outcomes of the committee are – to recommend what should be in the next Recreation and Public Use Plan for the Headwaters property.

- III. Acceptance of Minutes
 - a. Harry motioned to adopt the minutes from the June 14, 2023 meeting. Eric seconded the motion. All in favor of adoption.

- IV. Review of Primary and Secondary Uses
 - a. The plan provides management strategies and public uses permitted on the property.
 - b. A handout was distributed that outlined the primary and secondary uses from the 2007 plan which has been used in subsequent plan amendments.
 - c. There is a long list of primary uses that are either specifically identified in the easement as permitted uses or were documented to have occurred on the property before the easement was enacted. Some of the primary uses have restrictions, like only permitted on designated roads or trails per the easement.
 - d. Secondary use means any “new” natural resource-based *public* use which is not explicitly allowed under the terms of the Grant of Conservation Easement (or prohibited by it) or permitted under the most current Recreation and Public Access Management Plan; or any “additional” primary use which is different in scale, technology, environmental impact, or extent than existed at the time of the Grant of



Easement. Examples include ATV trails, camping, equestrian use, hiking (new, extended) and Special Use Permits.

e. Discussion

- i. Better education about the resources and permitted uses. Need to let people know how the process works.
- ii. Keep open for traditional uses, fishing and hunting. Don't expand ATV use unless it is to provide connection to other trail networks in Maine or to other trail systems such as the Bear Rock system. Keep ATVs off the main roads.
- iii. Law enforcement has kicked people off the property that were camping... there is an interest in dispersed camping.
- iv. Need appropriate welcome signage and let people know what they can do.
- v. Over signing has the same risk as under signing.
- vi. NHFG if fully staffed in Pittsburg. Additional officers are sent to assist in enforcement, especially during snowmobile season. Can respond to public use issues, however, need very specific details when reported. Use the [TIP411](#) tool.
- vii. Communication on the property can be a challenge. Cell service is better but not comprehensive. Radio communication has its dark spots. Discussions are being held to put additional towers in Vermont on Mt. Monadnock and at the Rt 3 crossing into Canada. Need to coordinate with Canada so there isn't overlap.

V. Proposals

- a. GNW Trail riders: At the meeting in June the proposal was discussed at length. The landowner does not want additional trails but is willing to continue current use and management strategies if trails need to be closed due to forest management activities.
- b. Coos Trail Assn: The committee reviewed the highest priority proposals in the interest of time.
 - i. Deer Mountain Fire Tower Trail: The committee would like to hear from the club more about the trail and the fire tower observation platform at a future meeting. Would prefer the trail remain hiking trail width and if the observation platform is constructed to fly in the materials. The name of the trail should also be changed so people aren't confused that it is open to motor vehicle traffic. Will need to consult with Boarder Patrol if the trail connects to 4th Lake. Harry made a motion for general support of the trail proposal, seconded by Eric. All in favor.
 - ii. Clarksville trail relocation: Would like to move the Cohos Trail from the Deadwater Road and use approximately 2 miles of snowmobile trail 131. Harry made a motion for general support of the trail proposal, seconded by Shawn. All in favor.
 - iii. Deer Mountain Fire Tower: Need to discuss liability and options for management. Is there a way to convey the structure to the club?
- c. NH Horse Council
 - i. Johanna provided a briefing outlining DPRs efforts to provide equestrian use on the property in the past. In 2013 DPR set up a committee and a pilot



equestrian trail plan was adopted. Two trail systems were identified and both relied on private landowners and municipalities to open their roads and trails to horses. Parking lots were identified and routes flagged. However, with limited manpower and no funding the effort fell apart. Horses are allowed at Coleman SP currently.

- ii. Charlie reviewed the alternatives submitted by the NH Horse Council.
- iii. Discussion
 1. The committee would like to invite the NH Horse Council to a meeting to discuss what they really want and need.
 2. Law enforcement has concerns about search and rescue issues.
 3. Need to explore the laws regarding horses on roads. What about interaction with other vehicles?
 4. What about compatibility with other uses?
 5. Committee felt strongly that this use needs to have a local organization to assist DPR in management. Other user groups have formed and work with DPR.
 6. Harry motioned to table the discussion until representatives from the organization are present. Darrin seconded the motion. All in favor.

VI. Outreach Session Discussion

- a. Comments Received: About 20 comments received so far. Johanna will put together a spreadsheet and provide comment analysis. Spoke to many people at the meetings and there is confusion about what is allowed and why.
- b. Several comments about XC ski & snowshoe trails that are not using snowmobile trails. Need more information on what is needed, do they want grooming? Just flagging and promotion? Johanna will look at the 2007 plan and the recommendations for this use.

VII. Next Steps

- a. A meeting will be scheduled later in the year and the Cohos Trail Assn & NH Horse Council will be invited.

Eric motioned to adjourn at 10:00am, seconded by Toby.