



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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May 14, 2021

Michael Waddell, Chairman
Board of Selectmen
Town of Gorham
20 Park Street
Gorham, NH 03581

Dear Chairman Waddell,

This letter is to provide you with my written decision regarding the Town of Gorham, Board of Selectmen's request for the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), through the Division of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Trails, to close the Presidential Rail Trailhead parking lot located on NH Route 2, to the loading or unloading of OHRVs and the parking of OHRVs and OHRV trailers from May 23rd through November 30th of each year.

The DNCR appreciates the participation by the members of the Board of Selectmen, Chief of Police Adam Marsh, Town Manager Denise Vallee, and other town and state officials at the public information session held on April 12, 2021. All the thoughtful and substantive comments expressed that night and the written public comments received were considered.

I have, therefore, instructed the Bureau of Trails to close the Route 2 parking lot for the loading or unloading and parking of OHRVs and OHRV trailers from May 23rd through November 30th of each year. The Presidential Rail Trail will continue to be used as a multi-use trail, accessible to recreationists including hikers, bikers, equestrians, OHRVs, and sled dog training, as well as for winter use. With the closure of the Route 2 parking lot to OHRV users, the DNCR anticipates reduced OHRV activity in that vicinity.

The Bureau of Trails will work with the Presidential OHRV Club to update the OHRV trail map and to start a public information campaign to inform OHRV riders that the Route 2 parking lot is closed to OHRV loading or unloading and parking, but that the Route 16 parking lot is open to OHRV use.

Thank you for the efforts of the Board of Selectmen and the Police Department in finding a workable solution to manage the various recreational users at the Route 2 parking lot of the Presidential Rail Trailhead.

Sincerely,

Sarah L. Stewart
Commissioner

cc: Philip A. Bryce, Director – Division of Parks and Recreation
Clint Savage, Interim Chief – Bureau of Trails