



ATV Watch New Hampshire
PO Box 34
Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire 03447
ATVWatch.COM (603) 785-7722

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Forest Planner
WMNF
719 N Main St
Laconia, NH 03246

Dear Forest Planning Team:

I am the Director of a registered nonprofit organization called ATV Free New Hampshire. Our mission statement is to "Limit the Use of ATV's on Public Lands". Our organization was formed in response to the disproportionate influence which those in favor of expanding ATV use on public lands have at the New Hampshire state government level.

In New Hampshire a large portion of ATV registration fees are, by law, directly earmarked to the Bureau of Trails, the state body responsible for managing all trails throughout the state. As one would expect, the Bureau of Trails, is an aggressive proponent for expanding ATV use.

Due to the Federal control of the White Mountain National Forest, these lands have thus far been protected from the destruction which ATVs cause.

We are against any use of ATVs in the White Mountain National Forest for the following reasons:

1. ATVs are fundamentally incompatible with the environment. Their use results in soil erosion which damages plant and animal habitats.
2. ATVs cause air pollution.
3. ATVs cause water pollution. Unburned and leaking fuel which may contain MTBE eventually reaches the surface and ground water supplies.
4. ATVs are noisy which negatively impacts wildlife habitats and the use of the lands by those partaking in more passive activities.
5. ATVs can pose a danger to other users of the lands.
6. ATV use requires disproportionate maintenance and management resources for the small number of users.
7. I am unaware of any health benefits resulting from the use of ATVs. To the contrary, their use negatively impacts the health of the user as well as others.

ATV Free New Hampshire and its members urge the Forest Service to not allow any use of the White Mountain National Forest for the entertainment activities of a few individuals while negative impacting the majority and placing the lands at risk for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Andrew Walters