

July 23, 2024

State of New Hampshire
Department of Natural & Cultural Resources
Office of the Commissioner
172 Pembroke Road
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Petition for DNCR to reconsider the request to extend the OHRV riding season on Connecticut Lakes Headwater Property

Dear Commissioner Stewart,

It has come to our attention that the DNCR has denied the Great North Woods Rider's request to extend the OHRV riding season through Columbus Day weekend on Connecticut Lakes Headwater Property for only 11 miles of trail.

The letter of denial stated that the reason for denial was due to NH Fish and Game and CLH Citizens Committee's concerns of conflict with hunters and that extending the season would put a strain on Conservation officers. Your decision will put a tremendous strain on the businesses in Pittsburg, NH.

As small business owners in Pittsburg, NH we are perplexed by your response. Every other town in the State of New Hampshire has dual use of hunting and OHRV on their trail system and is allowed to have an extended OHRV riding season through Columbus Day weekend and beyond. How can the Conservation officers in ALL other townships in the State of New Hampshire handle both OHRV and hunting simultaneously but not in Pittsburg?

This is unjust and unfair to the Pittsburg local businesses, our economy and our tourism season. Our gas stations, restaurants, lodgings, gift shops and all small businesses suffer greatly from the State closing our trail system down on September 30, just prior to one of the most important holiday weekends in the State. By doing so, the State is actually putting Pittsburg at a disadvantage to our neighboring communities.

For the past two years our Great North Wood Riders trail system has been destroyed by torrential storms resulting in complete trail closures which has put a strain on all local businesses. With our season already being so short and then experiencing multiple trail closures and complete shutdowns over the last two years, it has severely impacted our economy. Keeping the trail system open through Columbus Day weekend would allow the small businesses of Pittsburg to capitalize on the lost revenue through these storms and closures.

Allowing the OHRV systems to stay open throughout every township in the State of New Hampshire with the exception of Pittsburg, makes no sense. After Oct 1 tourists are allowed to flock to Berlin, Gorham, Errol, Colebrook and all the other towns in the North Country that flourish with OHRV guests over the busy Columbus Day weekend. These guests are allowed to ride all through the North Country, patronizing businesses in every town, yet they are not allowed to enter Pittsburg NH or patronize any of our small businesses. OHRV riders are severely confused as many of them end up on our trail system

because they're unaware that trails are already closed in Pittsburg due to the DNCR. One might ask if is legal for DNCR to discriminate against one town in the entire State of New Hampshire from dual usage of our trail system.

In addition, unlike other New Hampshire towns Pittsburg has a vast area for hunters to roam and hunt that is completely inaccessible to OHRV. North of River Road is closed to all OHRV riders which is the most popular and vast area in Pittsburg for hunters. Many of us are hunters and can attest that the Northern area of Pittsburg is by far the most popular area to hunt and it's completely closed off to OHRV.

The proposal to extend the OHRV season through Columbus Day weekend has been voted on and approved by the Town of Pittsburg Selectmen (which we have voted into office) and CGH Land Trust LLLP. The only entity holding up our ability to prosper by extending our season is the State of New Hampshire DNCR.

As we sign this petition, we are being notified today by NH Fish and Game that over 11 miles of access roads and 20 stream crossings are now closed throughout the 25,000-acre CLNA with an estimated \$900,000 in repairs. We're also being advised that the NH Fish and Game staffing, resources and funding are limited to repair the damage in the immediate future and that the probability of these thoroughfares being open for snowmobile season is very low. This will be completely devastating to our winter season economy as many of our snowmobile trails run through this area.

As united business in Pittsburg, NH we kindly ask that you reconsider your denial and allow us to extend the OHRV riding season in Pittsburg, NH through Columbus Day weekend. Additionally, we would like to request a meeting with all of the State agencies copied on this petition.

cc: Governor Chris Sununu
Joseph Kenney, Executive Councilor
Cinde Warmington, Executive Councilor
Janet Stevens, Executive Councilor
Theodore Gatsas, Executive Councilor
Davis Wheeler, Executive Councilor
Kelly Ayotte, US Senator
Joyce Craig, Manchester Mayor
Chuck Morse, NH State Senator
Taylor Coswell, BEA Commissioner
Scott Mason, Executive Director, NHFG
Colonel Kevin Jordan, NHFG
Captain Michael Eastman, NHFG
Brian Wilson, Director of Parks and Recreation
Patrick Hackley, Director of Forest and Lands
Johanna Lyons, State Parks Planning Specialist
Craig Rennie, Trails Bureau Chief
Ray Gorman, County Commissioner
Mike Ouellette, State Representative District II
Arni Davis, State Representative District I

Sincerely,

The Buck Rub Pub

Up North

Bear Rock Adventures

Hidden Acres
Camp Ground

Youngs Store

Lopstick

1840 Restaurant

Full Send

Granite State Power Sports

Urban Daughter

North of The 45th

Fat Belly Dinner

Jude Marquis
Lyle Fauteng
B. Muff

Faith Hodge
John
Friedrich

W. M.
Geddes

Raul Burnett Wanda Burnett

Michael Laurant

Chris T.

John

Robies Cabins

Bm

Scott Litchfield Construction

Scott Litchfield & Kemitatus

JM Construction

~~Jim~~ Jim Construction

G&D Performance

Jim

DR Electric

Dave Redfield

Arnold Gray Construction

Arnold Gray

Spaulding Electric

Jessie Spaulding

Grampy's

John

Cardinal Cabins

W. Chase/dcm

Mountain View Cabins

~~Jim~~ Jim

Northern Trails Lodging

Bm

Partridge Cabins & Moose Alley

Cathy Boutin/dm

Trail Side Rentals

Jim

Rancourt Sand & Gravel

Rancourt Rancourt

Patrick Britt

~~Patrick Britt~~

Budget Blinds

~~Director~~

S&G Hill Corp

~~L Hill~~

Pam Dorton

~~Pam Dorton~~

Paul Dorton

~~Paul Dorton~~

Jason Young Concrete

~~Jason Young~~

Northern Train Adventures

~~Andrew Eastman~~

Valley Property Services

~~D Jue~~