

Dear State Representatives.

The businesses in Pittsburg, NH need your help. The State of New Hampshire DNCR has recently denied a request from the Great North Woods Riders to extend the OHRV season through Columbus Day weekend. We are currently the only township in the State that is required to close OHRV trails on September 30 each year which puts us at a huge disadvantage.

The proposal to extend the season has already been voted on and approved by the Town of Pittsburg Selectmen and the landowner, CGH Land Trust LLLP. The only entity holding up our ability to extend the season through Columbus Day weekend is the State of New Hampshire DNCR.

Pittsburg is the ONLY town in the entire State of NH that the DNCR has denied the request to extend the OHRV season into Columbus Day weekend. This is unfair and unjust.

Our neighboring towns in the North Country from Colebrook to Erroll, Berlin and Gorham all flourish and prosper after Oct 1 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.

I have attached a petition from Pittsburg business owners requesting the DNCR to reconsider the request. Since this is a very timely matter, we are sending you an electronic copy as we gather signatures. A hard copy with signatures will be mailed to you next week.

We are requesting your help and support to get Pittsburgh's OHRV season extended through Columbus Day weekend for the 2025 season. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. My cell is 603-918-3385.

Best Regards,

Jude Marquis

Dear State Representatives,

Attached is the signed petition from Pittsburg business owners requesting that our OHRV trails stay open through Columbus Day weekend. We are specifically requesting the DNCR to reconsider the previous request to extend the OHRV riding season on Connecticut Lakes Headwater Property, which is the main connector trail to the rest of the Great North Woods.

Also attached is a second letter of support from the Pittsburg Selectmen who have all voted (twice now) in favor of our OHRV season being extended through Columbus Day.

Additionally attached is the letter of denial and reasoning from the DNCR.

There are a couple of very important bullet items to note:

- The area in discussion is only 11 miles of trails for an additional 8 days of riding to coincide with our neighbors in Colebrook and other Coos County towns.
- The extension was only for 8 days in 2024 and in future years it could be even a minimum of one weekend.
- In Commissioner Stewart's denial letter she states that the reason for denial is that *"this puts a greater strain on Conservation Officers that are the sole law enforcement entity for hunters and OHRV complaints in the CLH management area"*. This is not true. The Pittsburg Police Department, Sheriff's Department, Border Patrol, Forest & Land, (and since the Federal/ Governor Sununu grant passed for overtime in Coos County) all Police Departments in Coos County (ie Berlin, Colebrook, Gorham) are patrolling that area alongside Conservation Officers for OHRV. We honestly have never seen so many law enforcement officers patrolling Pittsburg, NH. Additionally, the Sheriff's Department has volunteered to enforce this area for the extended dates.
- In the denial Commissioner Stewart states it will create "additional conflicts with other users, particularly hunters". We are perplexed by this statement as EVERY other town and club in the State of New Hampshire has dual usage of hunters and OHRV on October 1st. How can they allow this in every other town in the State of NH but not Pittsburg. They manage the rest of the State just fine and Pittsburg is no different.
- Extending the season would actually help Pittsburg law enforcement as many people still ride into Pittsburg not knowing our trails are closed.
- Through many discussions with Fish & Game and the Trails Bureau, each are saying that it is the other department that is denying the extension. We are requesting a meeting with both agencies to understand why the request is being denied.
- If Fish & Game are adamant about closing this trail due to the hunting season then every town and OHRV club in the State of New Hampshire should close along with us on Sep 30th.
- With the DNCR being a direct competitor of ours with Jericho State Park (there you can ride until the snow flies), we feel this is a conflict of interest. If Jericho was located in Pittsburg NH the 11 miles of trails in discussion would have been open long ago.

- DNCR is the only entity holding up the extension (the landowner, Pittsburg Selectmen and Pittsburg Law enforcement have all approved the extension).
- We desperately need our trials to be extended for the 2025 season.

We request that you please take the time to read the proposal thoroughly so that you can completely understand our position and our frustration.

In order of urgency, we are sending this petition electronically. If you prefer a hard copy please let me know.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me on my cell 603-918-3385.

Sincerely,

Jude Marquis, The Buck Rub Pub

& Pittsburg, NH Business as signed below