

The area in discussion is only 11 miles of trails. 3 miles on one trail and 8 miles on the other. We're only requesting through Columbus day weekend (in which all other towns in the State of NH are granted). In 2024 it was only an additional 14 days of riding to coincide with our neighbors in Colebrook and other Coos County towns. In future years it could be even a minimum of one weekend.

Over the past 2 years our 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 it has severely impacted our businesses and 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.

In the Spring our ATV Club took the initiative to spearhead getting our trails open through Columbus Day to support local businesses and our economy.

They sought and received approval to extend the season from the landowner, Pittsburg Selectmen and Pittsburg Law enforcement.

However on July 15 DNCR denied the request. DNCR is the only entity holding up the extension (the CGH Land trust, Pittsburg Selectmen and Pittsburg Law enforcement have all approved the extension).

Commissioner Stuarts letter of denial stated that the reason for denial was due to NH Fish and Game and Connecticut Lake Headwaters Citizens Committee's concerns of conflict with hunters and that extending the season would put a strain on Conservation officers *that are the sole law enforcement entity for hunters and OHRV complaints in the CLH management area*"

Your decision will put a tremendous strain on the businesses in Pittsburg, NH.

- 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 for border patrol 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! Coos County Commissioners offered Sheriff dept to help for the 14 days.
- In addition, unlike other New Hampshire towns Pittsburg has a vast area for hunters to roam and hunt which 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. Hunters- Pittsburg hunters normally don't come until the 3rd week in Oct due to the first frost??? Hunters are unlike ATVers they eat at their camps and do not really impact our local economy
- "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.

- Loss of Business Revenues: After Sep 30 Pittsburg becomes a ghost town. People call to book rooms with us and then when they find out our trail system is closed they cancel and book in our neighboring towns. Last year had 4 rooms booked online to find out 3 days prior trail closed- cancelled reservation and rooms sat empty. This hugely impacts NH rooms & meals in Pittsburg.
- 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
- Staff loss of \$\$ - effects our employees, their families and our overall economy in Pittsburg
- 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.
- In denial letter :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. This is a small hardship for Conservation officers but HUGE win for our businesses- 2 more weekends. Rooms & Meals loss.
- Extending the season would actually help Pittsburg law enforcement as many people still ride into Pittsburg not knowing our trails are closed.
- 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 land owner, Pittsburg Selectmen and Pittsburg Law enforcement have all approved the extension).
- Pittsburg OHRV Registration fees go to Fish & Game to patrol
- CLH Advisory Board is just that -advisory board. The State owns the road and the State DNCR is the sole entity that can deny or approve this.
- How many violations in Oct 1-12 in past years in this 11 miles? Hunting season open Oct 1 but really doesn't start until 3rd week of Oct and most go North of River Rd
- We desperately need our trails to be extended for the 2025 season.



Pittsburg

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire's Northernmost Town

July 30, 2024

Great North Woods ATV Riders Club
PO Box 218
Pittsburg, NH 03592

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter as confirmation of our support of the ATV trails within the Town of Pittsburg remaining open for riding through the Monday of Columbus Day weekend.

It is our understanding that all other connecting ATV trails located in towns within our surrounding area currently remain open later than those in Pittsburg. We feel this extension of the riding season has the potential of being beneficial to local businesses and increased economic development in the area.

Sincerely,


Beth Drew, Chairman


Douglas Ahlstrin


Toby Owen

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