

N.B. Department of Natural Resources

Trail Management Principles

The management of trails on Crown Land in the province is guided by the following Key Result Areas and principles:

Protecting the Land, the People, the Environment and the Resources:

1. Protect the Land:

DNR shall make every effort to ensure a rational allocation of departmental lands toward trail development. The allocation of DNR lands for trail systems will be consistent with the proven capacity of the user group to develop, maintain and patrol the trail systems. In addition, the future development of the three trail systems will be done in such a way that further subdivision of DNR lands is minimized.

2. Protect the People:

DNR will make every effort to ensure the development of a safe trail infrastructure system and a safe trail riding and hiking experience. DNR will also make every effort to maintain the structural integrity of Sentier NB Trails (SNBT) and the undeveloped abandoned railway beds.

3. Protect the Environment and the Resources:

Trail development, maintenance and use will be done in such a way that it will minimize the impact to the environment and the resources. DNR will restrict and/or prohibit trail development in environmentally sensitive areas and in areas of cultural significance.

4. Strategic Enforcement:

DNR enforcement activities on trails shall be carried out in such a way that it will maximize the limited resources available, while ensuring minimal safety and liability risk. Enforcement on the three trail systems will: 1) build respect for property owner rights; 2) reduce ATV and snowmobile use on public roads; 3) build respect for dedicated use trails; 4) enhance safe operation of safely equipped vehicles; 5) increase overall safety of ATV and snowmobile riders and the public; and 6) improve the perception of how well DNR is handling the overall governance and management of the trail systems in N.B.

Establishing Responsible Financial Practices:

5. Fair Financial Return:

The use of trails for motorized vehicles shall be subject to the user pay principle. The two Federations have access to funding to ensure the development of their respective trail systems and, in keeping with the user pay principle, they will be responsible for the financial burden of developing and managing these trail systems.

6. Financial Accountability:

DNR shall make every effort to ensure that the management of the three trail systems is in keeping with the funding, staffing and volunteer capabilities of the three trail user groups and the funding and staffing capabilities of DNR. It is critical that DNR and the three trail user groups be held accountable for all financial actions and activities.

Optimizing the Three Trail Systems:

7. Appropriate Trail Systems:

DNR shall make every effort to ensure that the three trail systems meet the needs and capabilities of the three trail user groups and are in keeping with DNR requirements. DNR will work with the:

- New Brunswick Trails Council Inc. to ensure that future development for SNBT occurs near or within municipalities and areas of the Province presenting high tourism potential and high potential use by non-motorized users.
- New Brunswick Federation of Snowmobile Clubs to ensure that the provincial snowmobile trail network meets the need of the users and is in keeping with the Motorized Snow Vehicle Trail Management Agreement and DNR trail authorizations.
- New Brunswick All-Terrain Vehicle Federation to ensure that the provincial ATV trail network under development meets the needs of the users and is in keeping with the All Terrain Vehicle Trail Management Agreement and DNR trail authorizations.

Working Together:

8. Establish Partnerships:

DNR shall work with the three trail user groups and other organizations or levels of government to establish partnerships that will ensure the harmonious and efficient development and maintenance of the three trail systems. DNR will:

- work with Crown Timber Licensees to resolve ongoing issues with motorized trails;
- partner with municipalities and First Nations to manage sections of SNBT located near and within their boundaries; and
- work with all key stakeholders to:
 - resolve ongoing issues with motorized and non-motorized trails and to identify permanent routes for authorized motorized trails; and
 - explore the possibility of establishing a Trails Authority as a mechanism to ensure a more effective coordination of trail development in the province.

9. Consult the Public:

Public consultation shall be an integral part of the trail development process of the three trail user groups. DNR will ensure that adjacent land owners, other trail stakeholders and the general public are informed and involved in the development of the three trail systems.

10. Stakeholder Responsibilities:

The risk and responsibilities of developing and maintaining the three trail systems shall be shared with the three trail user groups. It is important that the three trail user groups be held accountable for all of their actions and activities, as well as possess a strong vision for the management of the three trail systems.