



## ATV PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
CONSERVATION & FORESTRY



# ATV Inspections

# Inspection Goals

In response to 2019 ATV Task Force Report, addressing landowner concerns, a 3<sup>rd</sup> party trail inspection process has been established with the following goals:

1. Identify & document **BMP issues** so they can be fixed
2. Identify and document **safety hazards**
3. Give credit for:
  - a. Job well done
  - b. Implementing BMPs
4. **Inspect 100% of trails every 2 years.**

# Who Is Inspecting?

- **Partnership with Maine Forest Rangers**
  - Trail BMPs are very similar to Forestry
  - Knowledgeable about land and landowners
- **ATV Program Trail coordinators**
  - Trained in BMPs.
  - May recommend closures
- **ATV Program Supervisor**
  - Reviews all inspections
  - Makes final call on trail closures

# Inspection Process Overview

1. Use smartphone apps to complete **inspections**
  - a. Mapping:* record track of trail/inspection
  - b. Survey:* answer questions about condition of trail
2. ATV program **reviews** inspection data
3. **PDF Report** emailed to ATV Program and ATV club presidents/trail masters
4. **End of season report** to Legislature



# Post-Inspection

- Trails may be closed for:
  - Environmental issues
  - Safety issues
- Reports
  - **Recommended actions**
    - Fixes now might prevent larger issues later
  - **Required actions**
    - Safety issues
    - BMP issues
      - Ex. Sediment going into stream
    - Trail will be closed if these are not addressed.
  - **Future grants should reference inspections for workplan**



# What is inspected?

- **Generally, if it is signed as an ATV trail – inspect it!**
  - **Do not inspect private trails**
  - **Do not inspect Public Lands shared use roads.**
    - Unless they are signed as ATV trails.
  - **Do not inspect closed trails** (identified on map) unless directed by ORV staff.
- **Goal: Inspect 100% of trails every 2 years.**
  - 2022: 63%
  - 2023: 73%
  - Mostly inspected the same trails in 2022 and 2023
- **2024: start with trails that have never been inspected**



# New for 2024

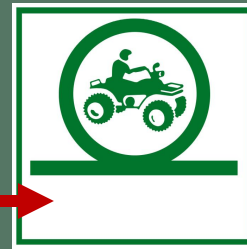
- **Specify BMP Issues**

- Is Point a BMP issue or is this a suggested fix?

- **Sign Issue – Access Route**

- On public roads (dirt or pavement):

- Not Correct
- Correct



- **Recent work**

- Note recent work, even if the club might not be responsible
  - i.e. grading on woods road

- **Trail Accuracy**

- Check if your GPS track aligns with trail GIS data

# Common Trail Issues

- Most issues come down to **water control**
  - **Keep the trail out of water and water out of the trail**
- Bridges and gates need to allow **65"** ORV's to pass
  - Need Caution Signs before Gate/Bridge
  - Need Object Markers at all 4 corners of bridge/gate →
- Trail signage = Trail Safety
  - Stop signs at ***every*** road crossing.
    - Stop Ahead signs 200-500' before Stop sign
  - If you're wondering if you're still on the trail, **recommend adding signage**



# Examples of Issues



# Bridges

# BMP ISSUE

## Issues:

Decking Worn

Approaches washing out

Missing Signs

Missing Bumpers

Missing Railings

Sediment going into stream





# Bridges

Issues:

Open Decking

Too narrow (must be  $>65''$ )

Missing Signs

**Sediment going into stream**

Inadequate Bridge Approaches

**BMP ISSUE**





# Bridges

Issues:  
Inadequate Bridge  
Approaches  
Bridge rotting away







**BMP ISSUE**

**SAFETY ISSUE**



# Water Control

Issues:

Exposed culvert

Improper Install

Needs maintenance





# Water Control

Issues:

Water in trail

Trail in wetland

No culvert or bridge









# Water Control

Issues:

Water in trail

Crushed culvert

Poor drainage

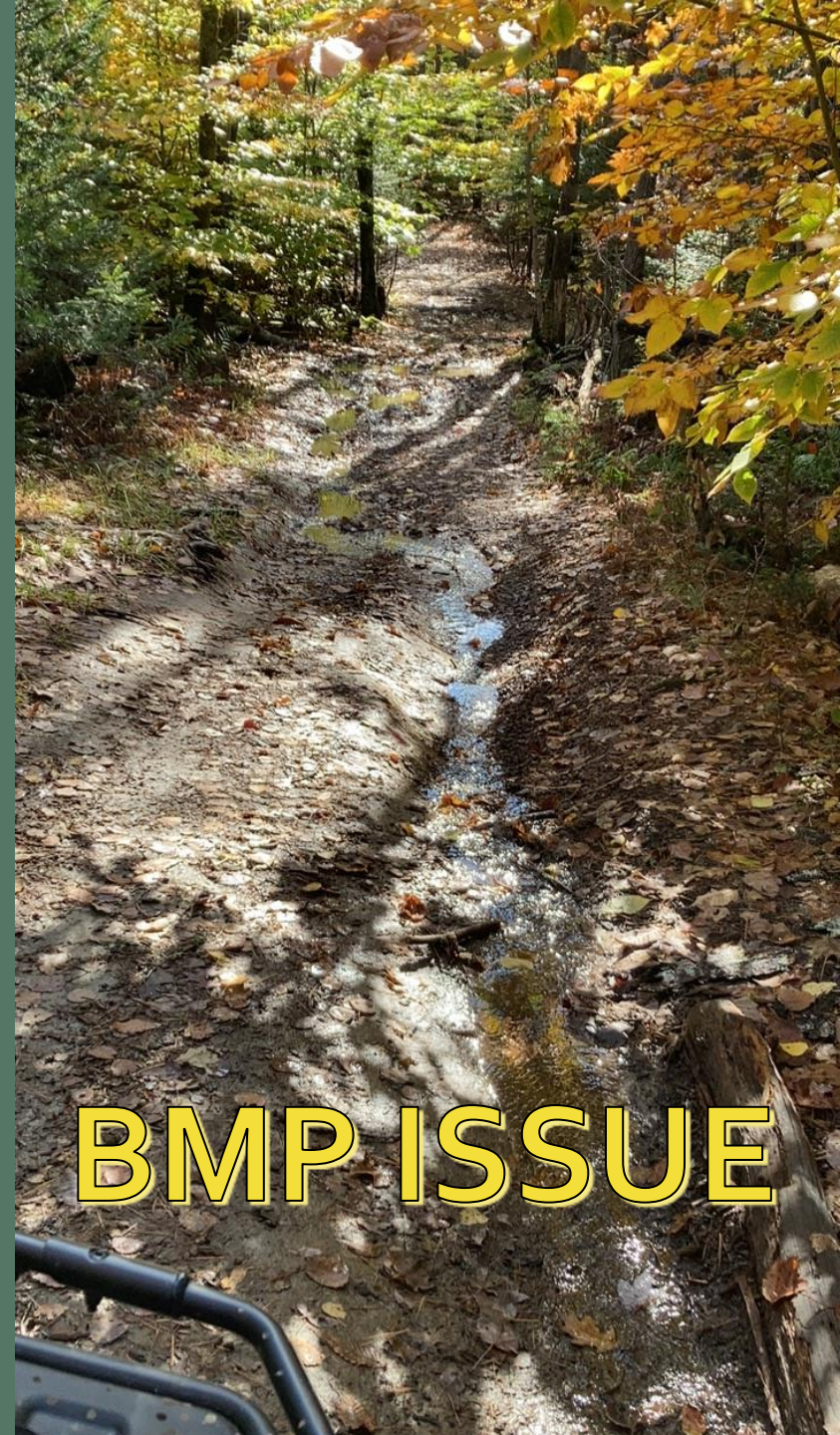
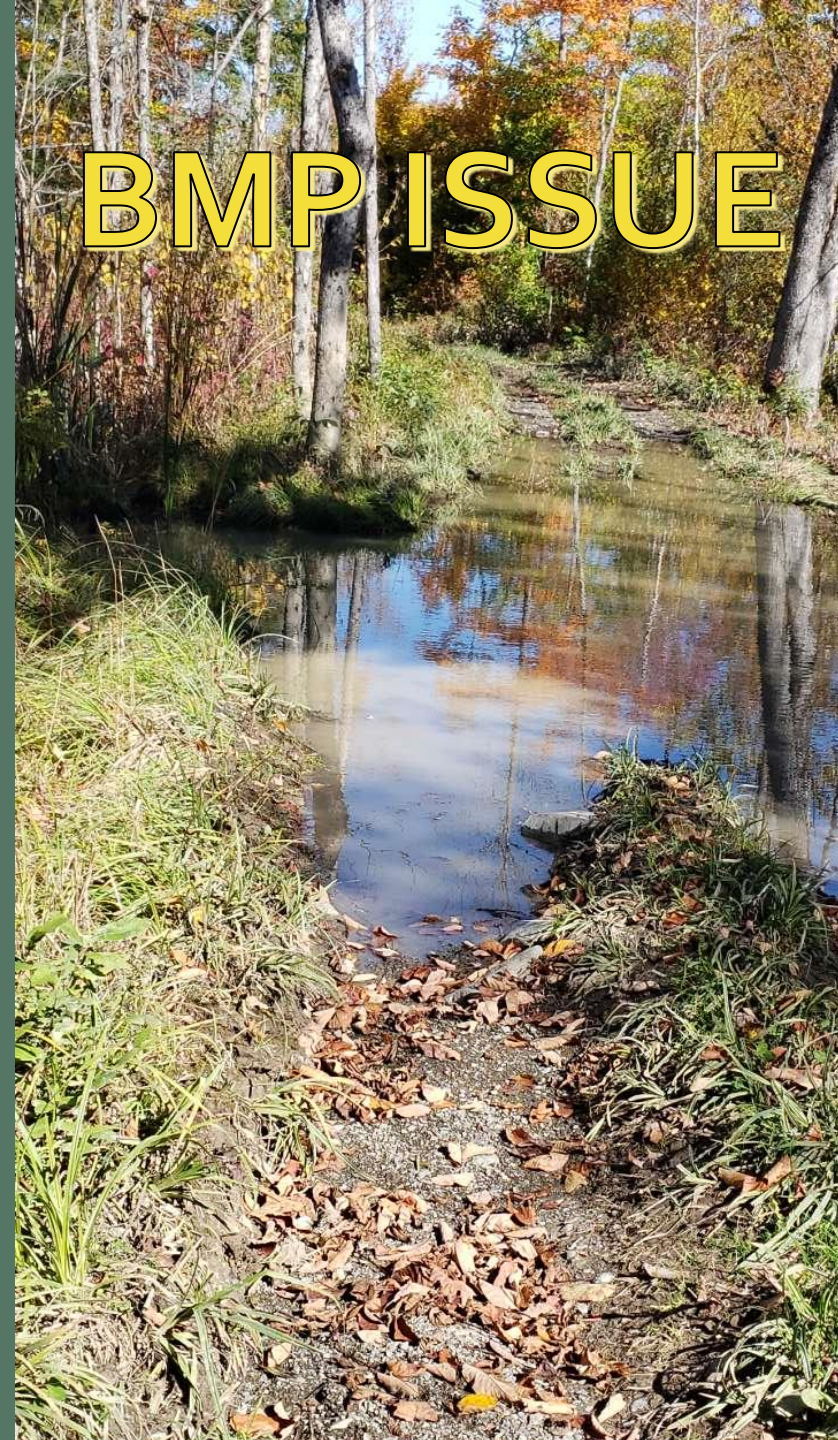
Erosion













# Give kudos.

- ✓ Good railings
- ✓ Straight Approaches
- ✓ Good Signage







Get out the bush hog!



45.356260°N  
67.819421°W  
09/02/2023 10:39:39

45.346415°N  
67.833450°W  
08/10/2023 13:24:42

45.413105°N  
69.155298°W  
08/05/2023 06:43:13



Give kudos.



- ✓ Good signage!
- ✓ Nice decking
- ✓ Great railings



Give kudos.

✓ Good signage!

✓ Nice approach on bridge

× Open decking = sediment in stream





Give kudos.

- ✓ Erosion control mat/hay in ditch
- ✓ Water diversion
- ✓ Ditching
- ✓ Grading





Give kudos.

- ✓ Solid Railings
- ✓ Closed Decking
- ✓ Erosion Control
- ✓ Signs
- ✓ Good line of sight





# Give kudos.

- ✓ Consolidated Signs
- ✓ Closed Trail Blocked
- ✓ Stop Sign with Cross Road
- ✓ Club Sign
- ✗ Writing on arrows





Give kudos.

✓ Consolidated Signs

✓ Club Sign

× No Information

**\*\*Landowner must approve any signs not provided by ATV Program\*\***





# Give kudos.

- ✓ Ditching
- ✓ Riprap'd water crossing
- ✓ Hardened tread
- ✓ Good line of sight
- ✓ Drive through waterbar







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# Questions?

Contact your club's Recreational Trail Coordinator for more information.