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Comments: Please accept this letter as the formal input from the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), Division of Parks & Recreation's, Bureau of Trails. The Bureau supports the overall recreational improvements proposed in this project; however, we are opposed to the relocation of the Bear Springs snowmobile trail.

The existing Bear Springs snowmobile trail has been utilizing this existing route for decades and there has been no negative impacts to wildlife within the Spring Brook Wildlife Opening, that this office is aware of. Limiting alternate uses of wildlife openings is a reasonable desire, for new openings, however it seems like an unreasonable project to separate uses that have co-existed for such a long time.

Our office was not contacted regarding this project. The Non Funded Challenge Cost Share Agreement between the Bureau of Trails and the White Mountain National Forest outlines that the WMNF shall "work to coordinate timber and other management activities on the Forest to provide for uninterrupted winter trail use, as much as possible." (Section IV, C). The snowmobile program was involved in the early discussions and planning of this project and has not started to plan funding for a reroute of an existing trail. If it is determined that this reroute is to be built and the trail moved away from the Spring Brook Wildlife Opening and the Pinkham B Road, it would be our expectation that the WMNF shall be funding the work for this 1 mile of trail. The Bureau of Trails would expect to be consulted on how the trail is built, if it is relocated, as we have the technical expertise for building snowmobile trails.

We would also oppose this trail being closed for winter harvesting. This trail is a very popular with riders and provides a valuable trail experience in the Gorham area. The trail has heavy winter use and closure would result in the loss of a loop trail opportunity in the area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project.