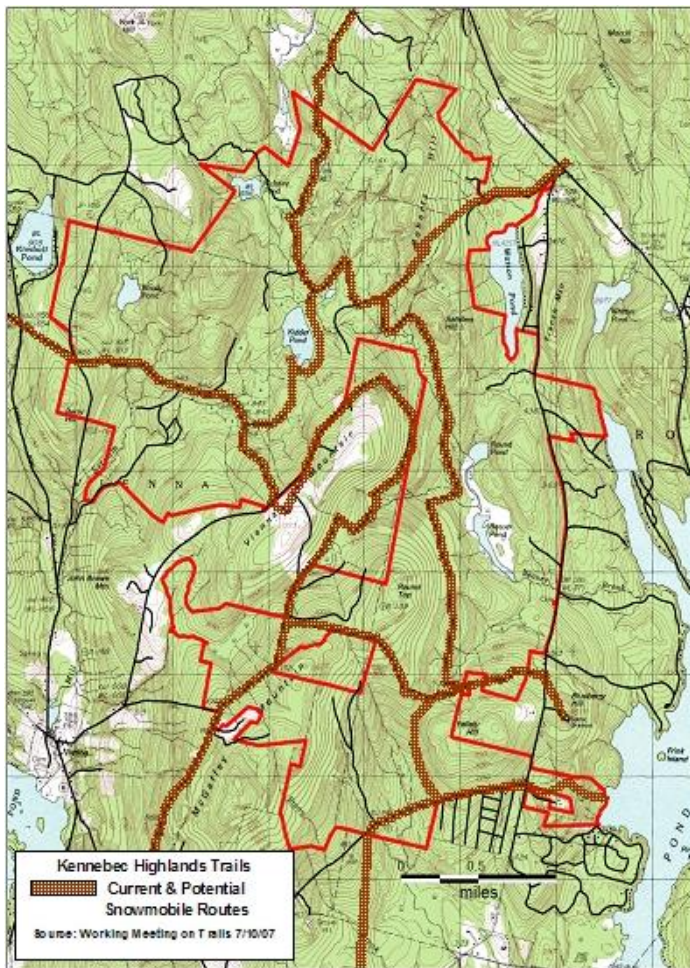


About 30 people attended this meeting designed to locate existing and potential trails for different uses, and identify issues associated with trail use and management. The larger group broke up into subgroups to plot trails on maps. A member of user each group then briefly explained the routes illustrated on his or her map and the larger group asked questions or made comments on the material presented.

The maps and associated remarks are presented below. Remarks include notes made on the maps, as well as questions and comments made in open session.



### Snowmobile Trails

Comments by members of Rome Rough Riders snowmobile club (22 members), which maintains a number of snowmobile trails on the Highlands. Routes used can vary depending on snow depth. Often access the Highlands via Long Pond (from Great Pond). Take Goat Path to connect to with Mount Vernon and New Sharon trails. Highlands trails connect with ITS 86 north of the property. Also have destination trail to Blueberry Hill for the view.

New Sharon and Vienna snowmobile clubs have also been maintaining trail on Allen property (private-blueberry fields).

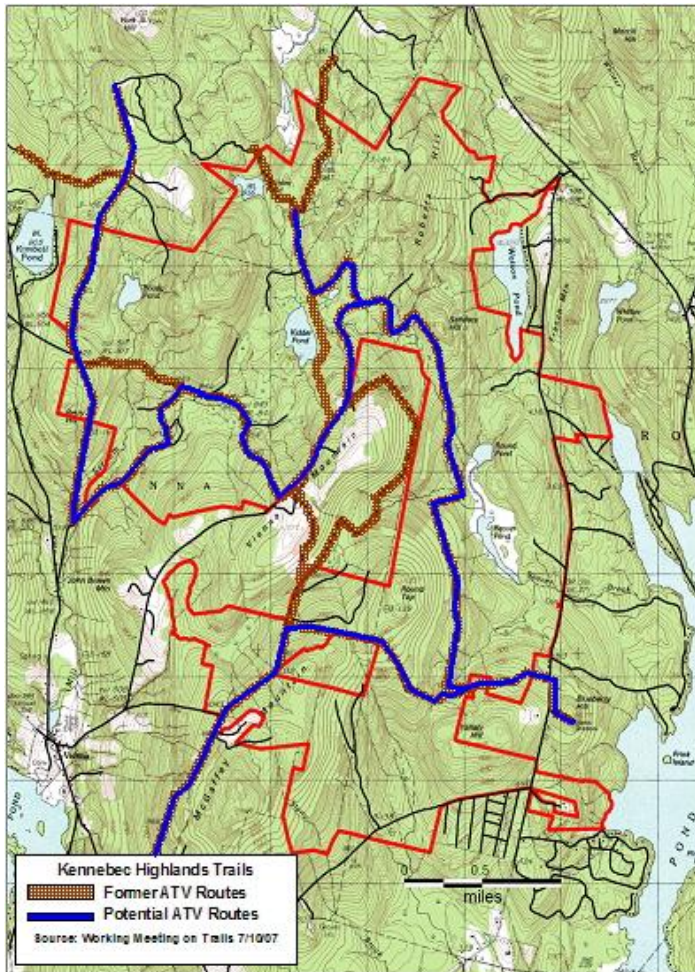
#### Issues:

- Bridge damage from trucks.
- Vegetation encroachment onto trails. Requires cutting/trail widening.
- 50" barricades too narrow to accommodate grooming drags. Need 48" + 6"-8."

#### Question

What about sharing snowmobile trails with other users?

Have no problem sharing trails with skiers and other users. Do not see many horses in winter.



## ATV Trails

Property has had a lot of ATV use, although there are currently no authorized ATV trails. Propose to access the Highlands in Vienna from the McGaffey Mountain Road, go around the blueberry fields, and connect to the York Hill Road into New Sharon. Two clubs connect in that area. The proposed route is based on avoiding wet areas and the blueberry fields and following the snowmobile route. Access on surrounding private land has been authorized. The route connects to ATV trails north and south of the unit and to the state Jay-Farmington rail trail. If authorized, the club will maintain ATV trails in the Highlands, treated as multiple use.

Environmental issues: wetlands/beaver ponds between York Hill Road and Kimball Pond; and on Berry Hill.

Questions:

What about riders who are not club members and access the trails? What about those who abuse the trails? How

will clubs address that issue?

Have no easy answer for irresponsible users. Police are starting to get involved and the club members will educate users. More riders are becoming educated and aware of the problems

Will ATV trail tread be like the rail bed? Trail will be better than it is now but not to rail trail standard.

There is a lot of overlapping use: how will there be separated? Why does proposed ATV route going through the east side instead of making a shorter connection to the north over the mountain? Why not make a straight-through connection and avoid conflict with the hiking trail [Kennebec Highlands Trail]?

Trying to stay on state ownership. Straight-through route would not all be on state ownership.

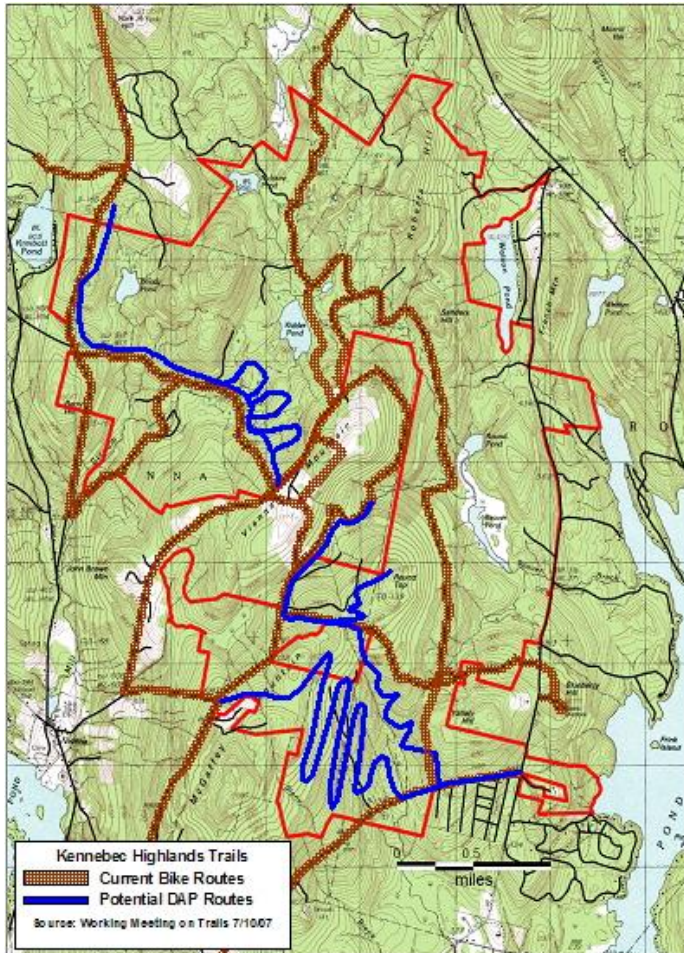
What about the Roxy Rand Road? There was some use into McIntire Pond, now restricted to walk-in. Have landowner issue on Roxy Rand Road. (Is this a county road? Abandoned?) Area road damage is from trucks not ATVs.

Concern about destination trail to Blueberry Hill. This is not a straight point-to-point through trail as indicated in the management plan.



ATV parking is allowed at Blueberry Hill. Parking and unloading of ATVs (i.e., as in a staging area) is not allowed.

Concerned about erosion near ponds. Even if no trail is identified, what will stop riders from going there?



### **Bike & DAP Trails**

Cyclists use same trails as snowmobiles and ATVs and many of the logging roads.

DAP [Differently-Abled People] Trails: routes adapted for bicycle and pedestrian use for multiple ages and abilities via use of switchbacks and smoother trail surfaces. (To be distinguished from ADA trails that must meet specific grade and surface standards). ATVs not compatible with DAP trails as they create ruts. People could also use ATV and snowmobile trails, but some sections would have to be smoothed out. Suggests DAP trails in Goat Path/Suicide Hill area, Round Top and along snowmobile trail north of Vienna Mtn.

Questions:

Would some of the tough mountain bilking trials be continued?

Yes. Not everyone likes it smooth. A DAP trail won't be interesting to real mountain bikers.

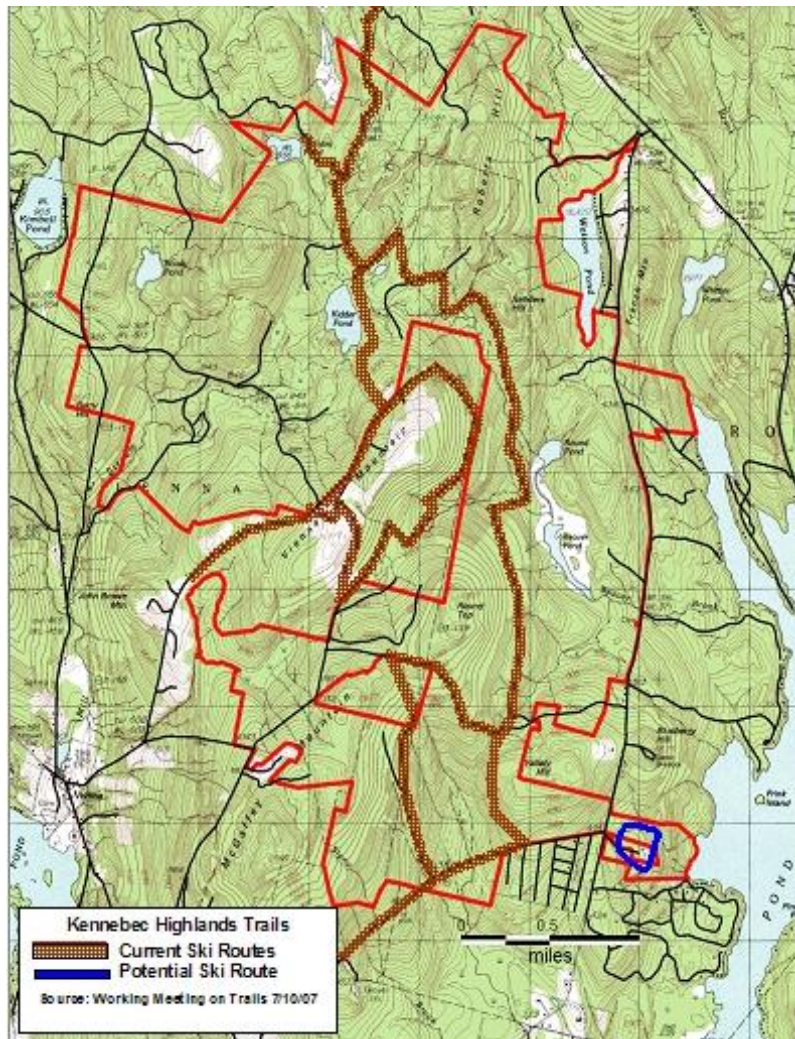
What happens if the bicycles go off the trail? Bicycles should stay on the trail, as well.



**Kennebec Highlands Trails**  
 ■ Potential Accessible Trails  
 Source: Working Meeting on Trails 7/10/07

**Adapted (ADA Accessible) Trails**

BRCA is thinking about having an ADA trail at the Nature Center that would be a loop involving both their ownership and some of the DOC land. This would be a self-guided nature trail, and skiers could use portions in the winter. Boardwalking is likely required in wet areas.



**Kennebec Highlands Trails**  
 ■ Current Ski Routes  
 ■ Potential Ski Route  
 Source: Working Meeting on Trails 7/10/07

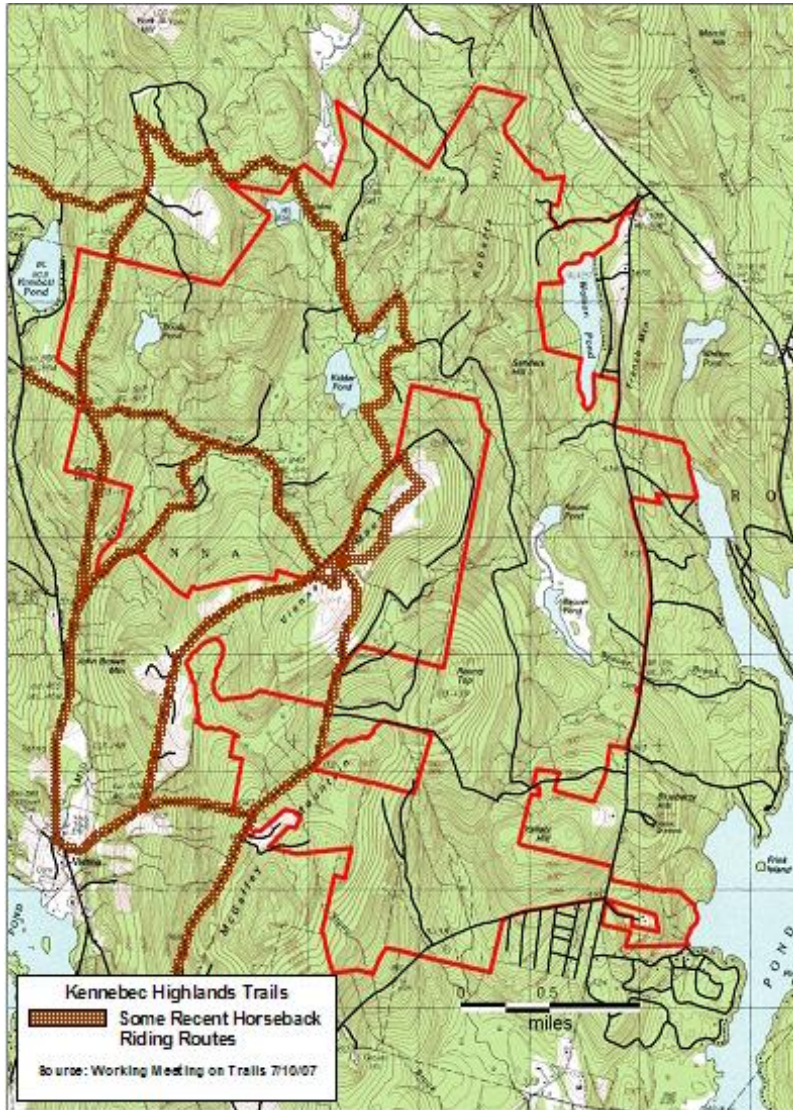
**Ski Trails**

These overlap other trails, e.g., snowmobile trails, but some ski on old roads that are too wet for summer use. Much of the Highlands landscape is used for skiing.

Potential short ski trail on Nature Center trail.

Question:  
 Are ski trails to be groomed?  
 No. No set tracks are proposed.  
 There are plenty of these opportunities elsewhere.





## Horseback Riding Trails

Most riders use the old road system, piggyback on other trails and go where they wish to go. There are probably not that many users, and use is sporadic and unpredictable. There is no organized club. It is likely the views that attract riders. Most often used routes include Berry Hill Road, Cross Road and Mountain Road, with loops at blueberry fields.

Poor conditions:

Cross Road (links Kimball Pond Road E/W to Mountain Road): badly eroded, steep & stony  
 Rugged Hill Road: an eroded mess.

If the area is opened to horseback riding, will need a parking area for trucks and trailers. Higher volume equestrian use could generate major erosion problems if trails are not hardened.

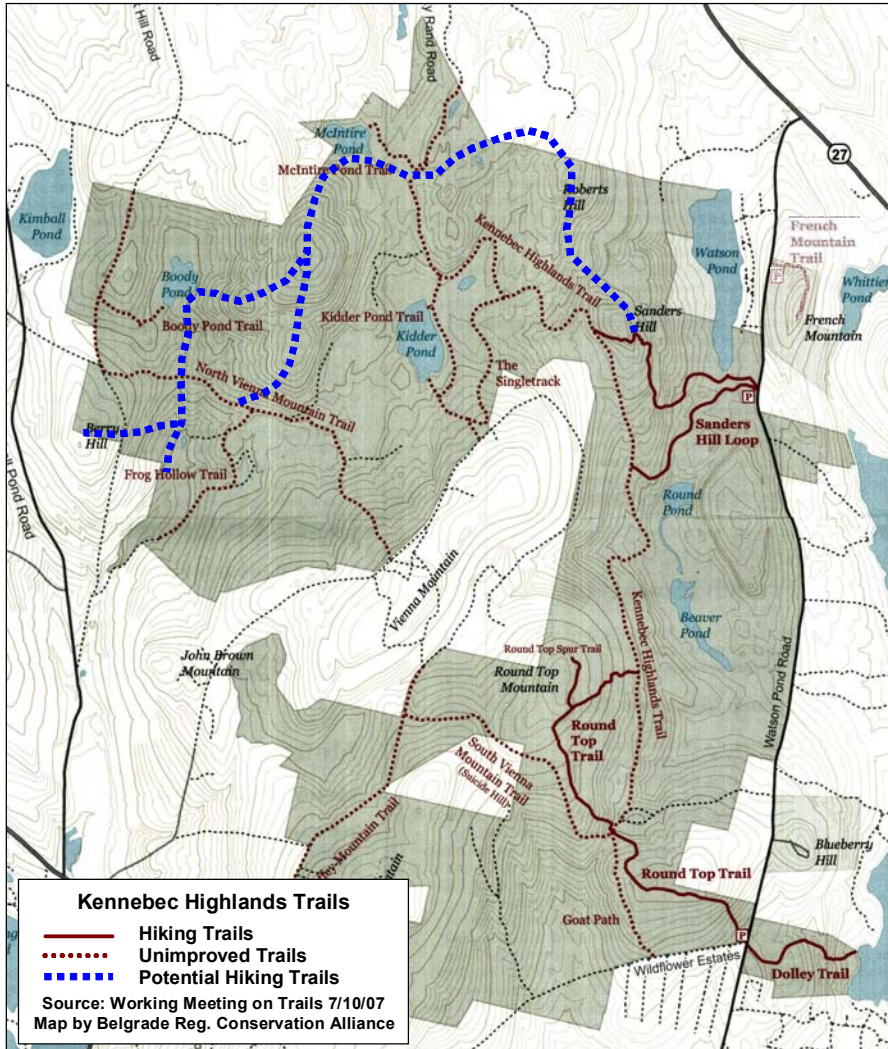
Conflict with other users could be the major problem for

horseback riders, particularly with cyclists and ATV riders. ATVs can spook horses that are not used to them, and bikes are quiet and can startle horses and riders.

Question:

What should mountain bikers do when they meet horses?

Indicate approach by making noise, without being very loud. Unsure of protocol.



## Hiking Trails

Two established hiking trails: Round Top Trail (4 miles and can see Mt. Katahdin from Round Top spur); Sanders Loop Trail (3 miles). Both are blazed. Hiking trails are open for snow shoeing in winter, and DOC plows the parking lots. Quite a lot of other hiking use on road system that are not maintained hiking trails. Do not mark trails into ponds. Have eliminated reference to Dolley Trail as improved hiking trail.

## Issues

- Vienna Mountain Road erosion
- Sanders Hill Loop on snowmobile trail section is rutted and likely eroding.
- Trail between

Kidder and McIntire ponds is also rutted: suggest nonmotorized only route parallel to existing road.

- Intersection of Kennebec Highlands Trail with Round Pond Trail? (notes unclear)
- Dolley Trail: significant erosion in middle section (snowmobile trail)
- Potential use conflicts:
  - Round Top and Sanders Hill trails (hiking) with Kennebec Highlands Trail (potential multiple uses)
  - ATVs parking at Round Top Trailhead and using Wildflower Estates Road to get to Kennebec Highlands Trail
- Impact on water quality throughout watershed from heavier motorized use
- Higher maintenance requirements for motorized uses, especially ATVs
- New hiking trails needed:
  - between the ponds
  - Up No Name Hill from Cross Road, east of Boody Pond
  - peak-to-peak trail from Sanders Hill to Berry Hill

Comments:



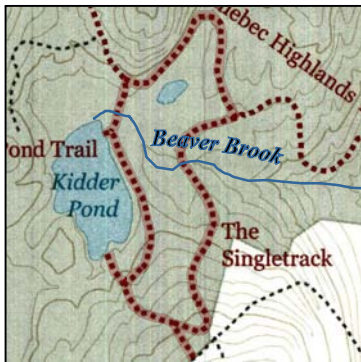
Parts of the existing Sanders Loop and Round Top hiking trails are on the logging road/snowmobile trail [Kennebec Highlands Trail]. ATVs will conflict with hiking. Uses need to be separated. Even parallel but separate trails will not address the noise and dust created by ATVs.

If ATV use is established in the Highlands, it will become a problem. Have installed water bars on some highly eroded road sections only to find that they are later destroyed by motorized use.

From Advisory Committee Member Deane Jones who was unable to attend the meeting:

**Other**

- What are the restrictions on hunting?  
Hunting is permitted on public reserved lands, by rules that differ from State Park rules. “Except for persons holding a valid Maine concealed weapons permit, loaded firearms are not permitted in campsites, on marked hiking trails, or at boat launches and picnic sites, and should not be discharged within 300 feet of such areas.”
- Advisory Committee Member Deane Jones was unable to attend the meeting, but submitted the following note on one of the hiking trails.



Kidder Pond/Beaver Brook Loop: ATVs are driving through Beaver Brook at two points on this loop (near Kidder Pond outlet and at the tote road crossing), tearing up the streambed and silting the water. Fragile bog off tote road has beautiful flycatcher plant. Would like to see the loop blazed as a regular hiking trail and something done to keep ATVs out of the brook.

**Meeting Attendance**

Brian Alexander, Advis. Com.	Rome	Matt & Rebecca Lemieux	New Sharon
Michael Ayotte	Mt Vernon	Dave MacLeay, Advis. Com.	Rome
Arnold Banna	Mt Vernon	Margaret Pietrak	Rome
Stan Caban, Advis. Com.	Rome	Quimby Robinson	Vienna
Margot Coryell	Rome	George Smith, Advis. Com.	Mt Vernon
Chris Currier, Advis. Com.	Mt Vernon	Hilary Smith	Mt Vernon
Robert D. Dalot	Jay	Dodi Thompson	Vienna
Hal Garnett	Mt Vernon	Jean Stewart	New Sharon
Marti Gross	Vienna	Larry & Marilyn Waugh	New Sharon
John K. Jones, Advis. Com.	Mt Vernon	Roger Wing, Advis. Com.	Vienna
Gary Keilty, Advis. Com.	Readfield	Norma Wing	Vienna
From BPL: Cindy Bastey, Brian Bronson, Bill Haslam, Bud Newell, Pete Smith			