

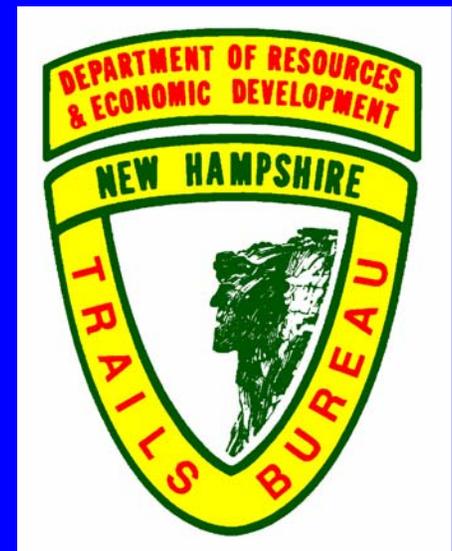


# ATV's & the NH Bureau of Trails

Then and Now

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- Department of Resources & Economic Development
- Division of Parks & Recreation
- NH Bureau of Trails



# History

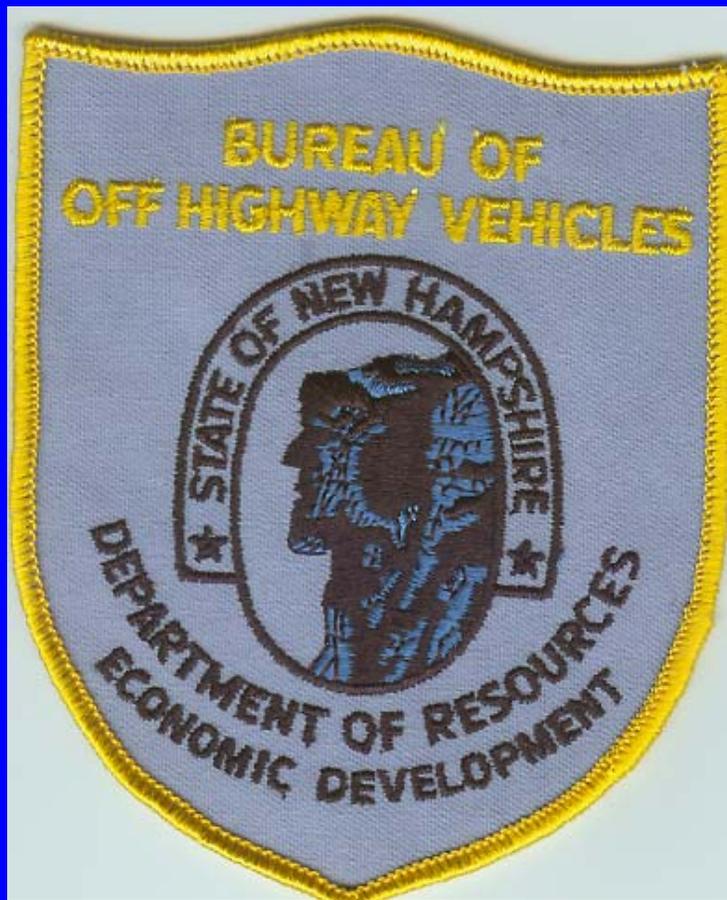
Created in 1973, by HB 10, as the Bureau of Off-Highway Vehicles and charged with trying to get a handle on the snowmobile and trailbike activities of the time.

1993 name changed to reflect the expanding role of the Bureau, including non-motorized trails.

Bureau administers trails on state & federal lands and assists organizations, municipalities and OHRV clubs with trail-related activities on both public and private lands.

Manage 300+ miles of state-owned Rail Trails, assist in maintenance of 6,800 miles of snowmobile trail and over 700 miles of wheeled OHRV trail.

1973-1993



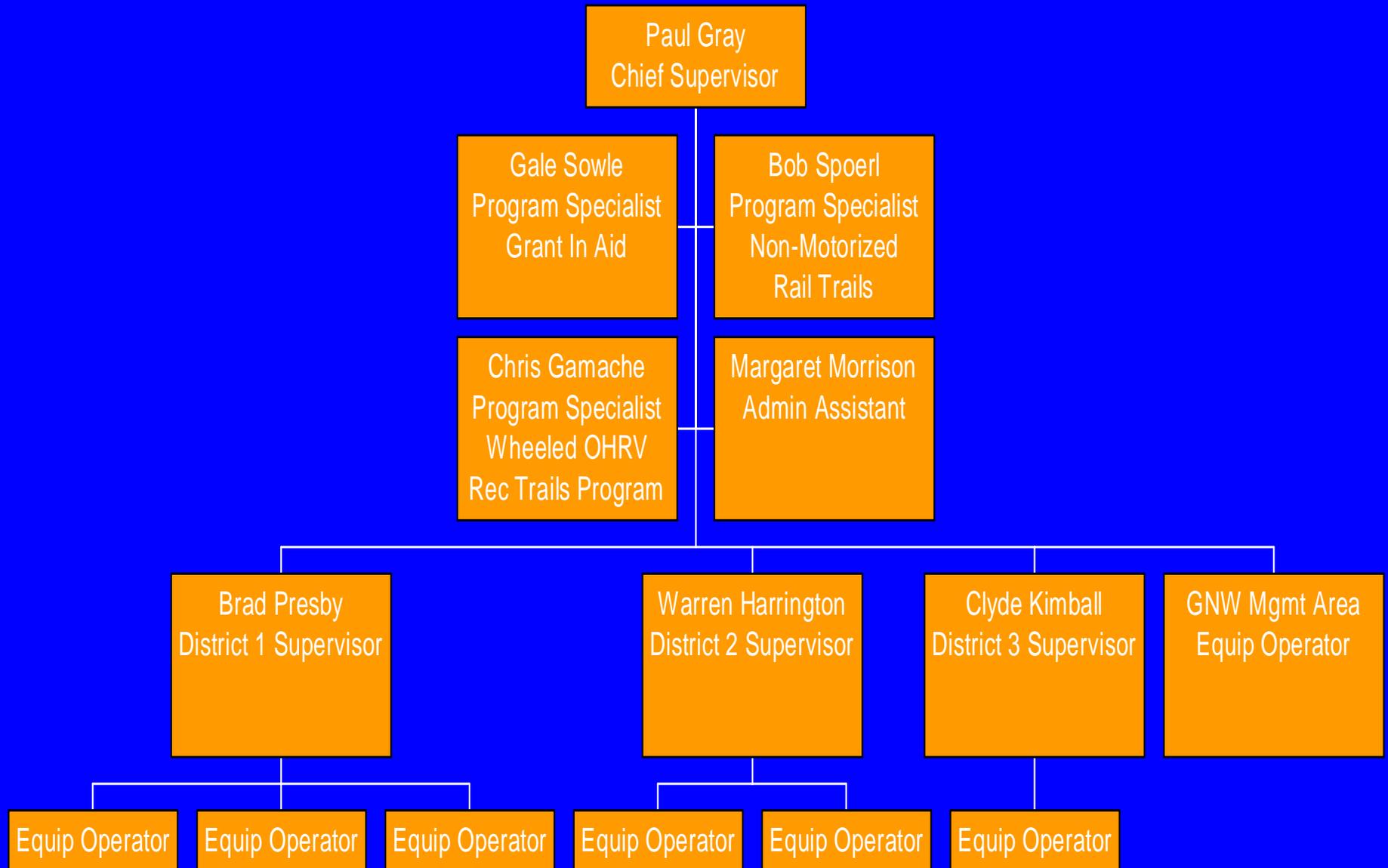
1993-Today



# Bureau Responsibilities (in a nutshell)

- Coordinate between F&G, F&L and DOT with topics pertaining to OHRVs.
- Coord. efforts to obtain easements & ROW for trails, trail facilities and related tasks and/or purchase property.
- Act as liaison between landowners and OHRV users
- Work with and assist in formation of clubs
- Administer all funds relating to trails (state & federal)
- Plan, develop & maintain statewide trail system
- Recommend statutory changes relating to OHRVs
- Receive all requests for OHRV road crossings

# Bureau of Trails Organization



# Recent Activity

In 2003 & 2004:

The Bureau of Trails has been involved with over 20 pieces of legislation dealing with OHRVs.

The Bureau worked with MEAD Paper Company to help implement their ATV policy change on their NH lands (130 miles of trail/road).

The Bureau worked on a pilot ATV trail in the Nash Stream Forest, which has a 3-year environmental study attached to it.

The Bureau worked with the environmental consulting firm, Woodlot Alternatives Inc., to develop a 5-Year Statewide ATV/TB Trail Development Plan (on our website).

Have started a review of Bear Brook State Park, for a potential ATV trail system, using a draft criteria passed into legislation in 2002.

# More recent activity

In fiscal years 2002 & 2003, the Bureau granted out \$179,133.92 for wheeled OHRV trail projects and \$5,858,373.70 for winter OHRV trail projects (snowmobile).

This year (FY2004) \$205,769.75 was awarded to the wheeled clubs for summer OHRV trail maintenance.

Since 1999, Wheeled OHRV clubs (ATV & Trail bike) have increased from 9 (1999) to 26 (2005).

Recent registration numbers have gone from 13,795 (ATVs in 1999) to 21,888 (ATVs in 2004, 4,107 Trail bikes).



## FUNDING

- The common misconception is that general tax funds pay for these trails: **INCORRECT**
- The Bureau and OHRV trails are funded solely from ORHV registration fees and gas taxes on OHRV vehicle usage.
- All trail programs (insurance, maintenance, brochures, equipment, etc.) are paid from these fees.

# Landowner Partnerships

WITHOUT PRIVATE LANDOWNERS,  
THERE WOULD BE LITTLE PUBLIC  
TRAIL IN THE STATE OF NEW  
HAMPSHIRE!!!!



Private lands account for approximately 80% of the winter OHRV trail system in NH.

Private lands account for approximately 85% of the summer OHRV trail system in NH.

# Landowner Permission?

Yes! Written landowner permission is required for someone to operate an OHRV (of any kind) on the property of someone else (RSA 215-A;29, XI)

The exception is (b) verbal permission can be given to an OHRV club or the Chief of the Bureau of Trails is sufficient for operation of an OHRV on trails established by a recognized OHRV club or the bureau. Anyone operating on these “designated” trails does not need written permission on them to ride.

# Landowner Liability Policy

- Bureau provides a \$2,000,000 Policy to all landowners who allow public OHRV trails, through an OHRV club or the Bureau, on their lands.
- Landowner list is updated annually by the OHRV clubs and Bureau to the insurance agent (Rowley Agency)

# OHRV

(OFF-HIGHWAY RECREATIONAL VEHICLE)



**BUREAU WORKS  
WITH AND  
PROVIDES TRAIL  
OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR THESE OHRVS.**

# What do we mean by OHRV?

- Any mechanically propelled vehicle used for pleasure or recreational purposes running on rubber tires, belts, cleats, tracks, skis or cushion of air and dependant on the ground or surface for travel, or other unimproved terrain whether covered by ice or snow or not, where the operator sits in or on the vehicle.

# OHRV?



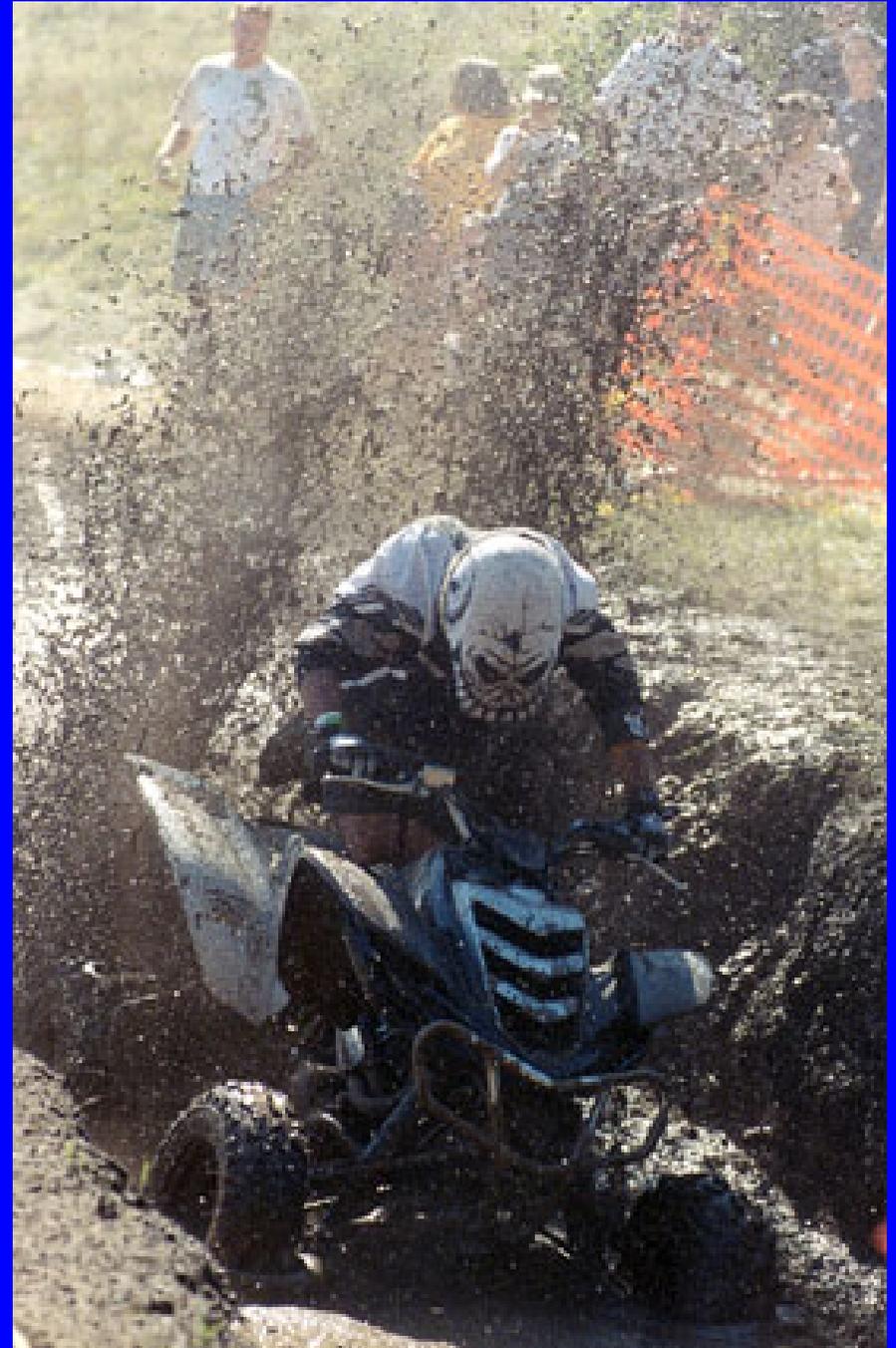
# ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV)



What you probably think  
of when someone says

**ATV!**

**(This was a special  
event with a mudpit  
excavated into an  
old pool foundation.)**



# DEFINITIONS: ATV

- Any motor-driven vehicle which is designed or adapted for travel over surfaces other than maintained roads with one or more tires designed to hold not more than 10 psi of air pressure, having capacity for passengers or other payloads, not to exceed 1000 lbs net vehicle weight, and not to exceed 50 inches in width.

# Recognized Sport





**Family Outings**



# Social Recreation



**Potential Year-Round  
Opportunities**

**Wetlands**



**The Fears!**

# SPEED, DUST & NOISE



# 90% of ATVers



**Are Responsible,  
Conservation minded,  
Land Stewards  
that know if  
the landowner  
isn't happy, there will be  
trails NO MORE!**



**Users educating other users**

# THE BOTTOM LINE

- ATVs are here
- Registrations are increasing
- Designated trail mileage is currently low
- Recognized Sport in NH
- Economic Impacts to the State (benefits)
- More clubs=more trails=more maintenance (\$) =better trails & (hopefully) happy landowners



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