

Adopt a Road

Bradford Conservation Commission

Spring 2021 Report



Introduction

This report is the product of Bradford citizens' efforts to monitor the condition and usage of our Class VI roads. These roads provide access to residences and back-lands, and are often incorporated into trails for non-motorized recreational activity. In addition, they serve as access lanes for emergency fire and rescue services. The surveillance and report are a function of the Bradford Conservation Commission in an effort to prevent further degradation of these valuable resources.

Spring 2021 Update

This is an updated version of the monitoring reports from Fall 2018 to present. Some of the previous documentation has been retained if there is an absence of substantial change as reflected in more recent observations. Significant updates for Spring 2021 include:

- The Select Board has decided to enforce an ordinance directing closure of Class VI roads during the Spring mud season. While there was substantial non-compliance, many vehicles did respond and turned around rather than drive down the closed roads.
- The Bradford Police are being responsive to citizen complaints regarding ATV/mud-bike travel on Class V and VI roads.
- Several areas of ATV-related Class VI road damage are beginning to return to a more natural state. This was particularly noted on Liberty Road and Day Pond Road.
- Pierce Road is now closed as a class VI road as per 2021 Bradford town meeting.

Class VI Road Condition Definitions

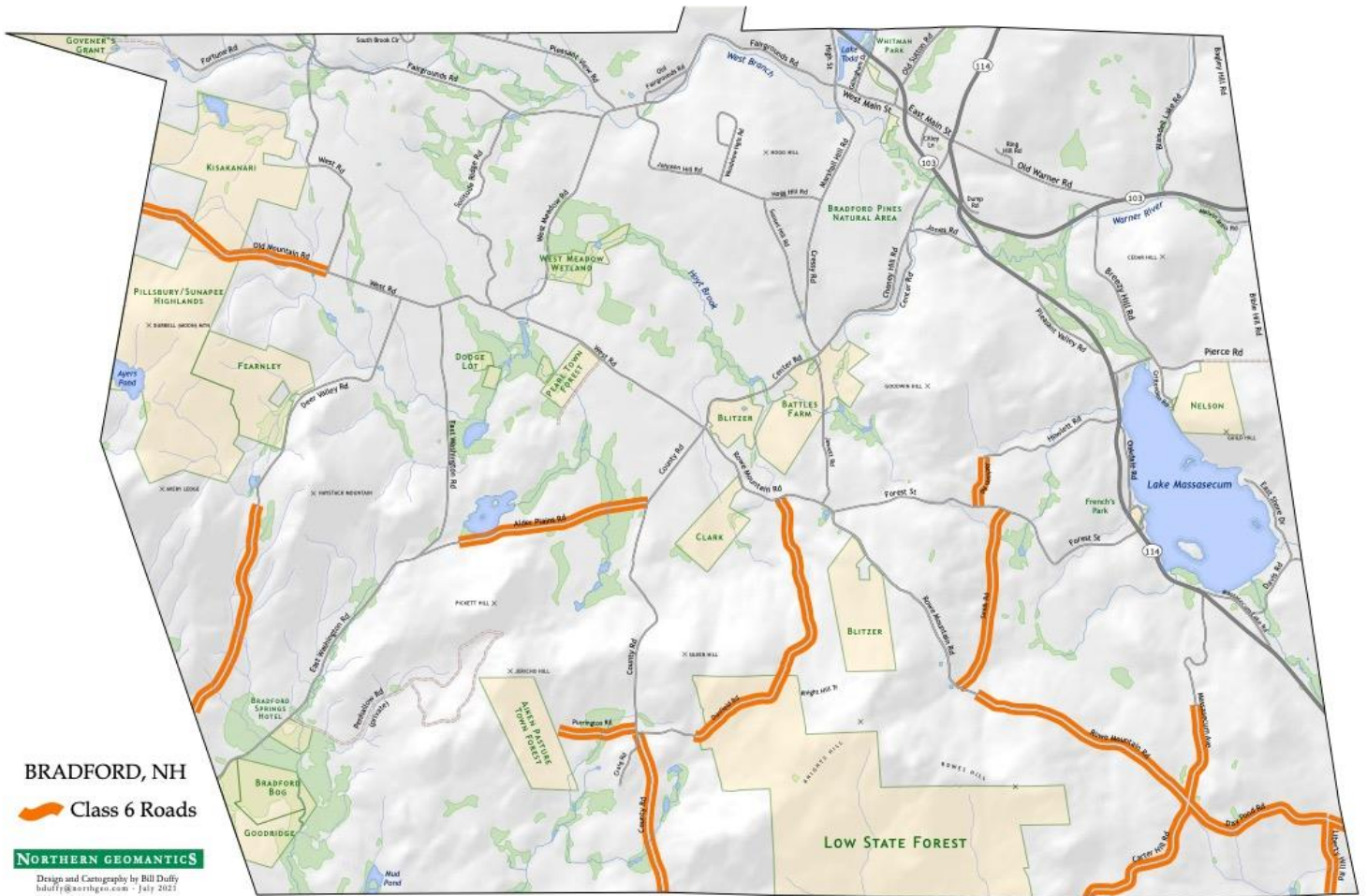
Road conditions may be classified by the volunteer road monitor based upon the following guidelines. The guidelines were developed to present realistic expectations for these gravel roads which are not maintained by the Town of Bradford. As these roads are easily damaged by motorized travel during wet conditions, such travel is not recommended.

Excellent	Generally suitable for licensed vehicles and non-motorized travel.
Good	Suitable for licensed vehicles and non-motorized travel, but not excellent. May have isolated rocks and mud.
Fair	More frequent and significant road hazards may be encountered. Appropriate only for licensed 4-wheel drive vehicles with high ground clearance and non-motorized travel.
Poor	Substantial and frequent mud and rock obstacles are present. Suitable only for specialized, licensed 4-wheel drive vehicles, as well as non-motorized travel.

The Bradford Conservation Commission assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of these observations noting that a comprehensive professional assessment has not been done and road conditions change. Travelers must use their own discretion in traveling these roads and travel at their own risk.

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Alder Plains Road

Monitor(s): George Beaton and Meg Fernley

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: May 2021

Alder Plains Road runs between County Road and East Washington Road for a total of approximately 1.25 miles. Beginning at the junction with East Washington Road, it is about 0.2 miles to the start of the Class VI section signified by a "Not Maintained" sign.

<u>Miles</u>	<u>Conditions</u>
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0.25	Up until this point, road is in Good condition with placement of crushed rock. A small building is encountered on the left side of the road which appeared to be occupied in the past. Numerous junk piles and cars/trucks along-side of the road.
0.75	Road surface is Fair to Good, reasonably flat, but with significant mud puddles. One culvert juts up from the road surface.
1.0	Road continues to be in Fair to Good condition, but ends in water at approximately 1 mile (see pic).

Reversing course and starting at County Road, the following observations were made.

0.1 miles	Road is reasonably flat and in Fair to Good condition with mud puddles. Road ends in water as was the case from the entrance via East Washington Road.
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Erosion:	Modest amount of erosion as the road surface and surrounding land are relatively flat. However, there are numerous mud puddles.
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Obstructions: Standing water in some areas of the road as previously noted.



Trash/Dumping: The junk and trash piles looked similar to the report of Fall 2019.



Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: None other than that the road is posted for closure on both ends for mud season. In addition, there were some new realtor signs in the field just before the water crossing.

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: All looked consistent with last year's monitoring except several sets of tire tracks from the E Washington end to the field just above the submerged road. On the County Road end, an ATV was observed pulling out a larger side by side which had conked out when trying to cross the water. This observation was made on 5/22/21 during mud season.

Other Conditions: Camp at 260 Adler Plains Road (map9, lot 15) may no longer be occupied.

Bible Hill Road

Monitor(s): Tom Dunne and Doug Southard

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: May 2020

The Class VI section of Bible Hill Road appears to run through Warner with only the final brief (200 ft) section being in Bradford.

Starting at the beginning of the Class VI road in Warner, the following landmarks were noted.

Mile

0.0 Road maintained by Tom Dunne and is in EXCELLENT condition for a Class VI road.

0.3 Road converts to unmaintained and is in FAIR condition.

0.45 Warner/Bradford town line (approximately 800 ft from beginning of unmaintained road).

0.49 Apparent end of Class VI roadway (approximately 200 feet from town line).

Erosion: Mud/pot holes with some large rocks noted on the Bradford Class VI section.

Obstructions: No

Trash/Dumping: No

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: No

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Some motorized tracks noted in the mud.

Carter Hill Road

Monitor(s): Peter Blank

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: June 2021

Mileage: Starting at the junction with Rowe Mountain, Massasecum, and Day Pond Roads.

0.0 - 0.17 miles: Road climbs steeply uphill immediately from Day Pond/Massasecum Ave./Rowe Mt. Rd. junction. Road condition is Poor, mostly exposed rock with some sandy areas. Large fallen hardwood tree partly obstructs the road about 50 yards in.

0.17 - 0.25 miles: Road condition very Poor, washout heavier, steep grade continues.

0.25 - 0.37 miles: Road flatter, condition improves to Good.

0.37 - 0.5 miles: Grade becomes steeper, road condition remains Good. Clearing on left side of road.

0.5 - 0.55 miles: Grade flat, road condition Good.

0.55 - 0.6 miles: Large, moderately deep mud wallow, ~2' deep, about 30' x 50' in diameter.

0.6 - 0.75 miles: Road climbs steeply, extremely eroded, no soil present, small stream running down. Road condition extremely Poor.

0.75 - 0.85: Condition improves, grade lessens, still climbing. Condition is Poor.

0.85 - 1.0 mile: Road climbs steeper again, condition very Poor to top of hill and town line.

Erosion: Significant erosion from beginning to Hillsborough town line. Some sections essentially impassable except by articulated suspension. Some small bypasses have been cut into the adjacent woods to circumvent the worst sections. Property owner has posted area with homemade "No Motorized Vehicle" signs.

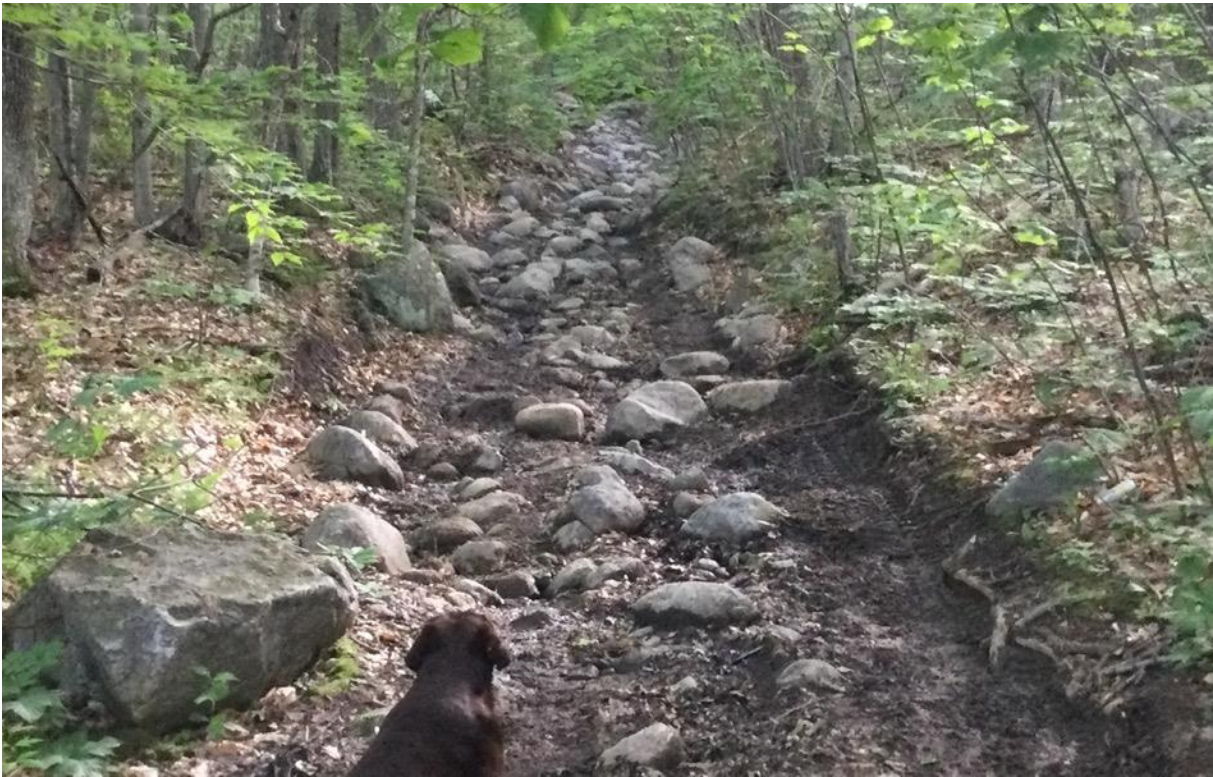
Obstructions: One low lying area has roughly 6 inches to 2 feet of muddy water, perhaps 50ft by 30ft (see picture). Mud hole hasn't seemed to increase in size, but another bypass has been cut through the low-lying forest to allow ATVs to pass. The cut section is too small for Jeep's.

Trash/Dumping: Some trash. A small residual campfire with beer cans is located by the flooded section.

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: Road posted closed for mud season at the junction of Day Pond/Massasecum/Rowe Mt Rds, but not at the Hillsborough town line at the top of the hill.

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Significant tire tracks, including ATV and 4x4 truck\jeep.

Other Conditions: Road primarily consists of large stones, with small sections of sand or gravel interspersed.



County Road

Monitor(s): Bob Blank and Doug Southard

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: June 2021

Mileage: Measured from end of town maintenance headed south toward Hillsboro.

0.37 Road maintained by local residents and is in Excellent shape for a Class VI road, although somewhat of a single lane due to wetlands on both sides.

0.42 Short distal portion of road is in Good condition as it heads downhill toward the Bradford/Hillsboro town line.

Erosion: The State of NH logged out past the Bradford line. They upgraded the short section that was past the last habitation to get their log work done. Making Bradford's section and slightly beyond very drivable. There are, however, several relatively deep water bars that have been installed.

Obstructions: No

Trash/Dumping: No

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: The road is posted for mud season closure at the end of the privately maintained section of the Class VI Road.

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Yes, several residences are located on this road.



July 1, 2021

Day Pond Road

Monitor(s): Doug Southard

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: April 2021

Starting at 4-way junction with Rowe Mountain Road, Carter Hill Road, and Massasecum Road.

Miles

- 0.0 Road generally in "FAIR" condition with some large rocks (8-12 inches) over the first .25 miles.
- 0.37 Appears to be old off-road damage near a water crossing on left (North side).
- 0.96 Road enters 4-way junction with Liberty Hill Road and a private road before continuing on to Rt. 114. The last .25 miles moves from "FAIR" to "GOOD" in sections due to riprap placed after logging operations.

Erosion: Section closest to Rowe Mountain Road has significant erosion. Riprap placed on Liberty Hill end makes road a bit more stable. Evidence of off-road ATV "mudding" on North side of road appears to be returning to more natural condition (see pic).

Obstructions: No significant obstructions, though there is some access road construction at junction with Massasecum Ave, Carter Hill Road and Rowe Mountain Road.

Trash/Dumping: No significant dumping noted.

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: One "snowmobile?" sign pointing to Henniker located at junction with Rowe Mountain Road. Trail sign needs to be labeled "Snowmobile". Mud season closure sign now present at Southeast end of the road.

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Old off-road embankment damaged as noted above. No activity directly observed.



Deer Valley Road

Monitor(s): Meg Fearnley and George Beaton

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: June 2021

Erosion: Erosion continues in two sections of the road where the stream bed is the road. Road mostly Fair with two Poor sections. Recent usage appears light.

Obstructions: One gate across road, closed but not locked.

Trash/Dumping: Minor

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: Road closure signs for mud season are present on both ends of the road.

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Regular use by dirt bikes, ATVs and 4WD trucks, uptick from previous years. Minimal new damage.

Other Conditions: Landowner at Bradford end of Class VI Deer Valley Rd. states he owns the road, but there is a public right-of-way.



Dunfield Road

Monitor(s): Sandy Luckury

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: June 2021

Mileage: Beginning at the old school house site on West Dunfield Road, the Class VI section is about 1.32 miles long.

- 0.00 Initial section is Fair with some erosion
- 0.53 Road condition moves from Fair to Good
- 0.6 Top of hill; Harriman and Howlett cellar holes noted
- 0.89 Roads starts heading downhill; condition moves back to Fair due to erosion
- 0.93 Road condition deteriorates to Poor with extensive washouts and large rocks.
- 1.32 Unmaintained section ends

Erosion: No sign of increased erosion.

Obstructions: Extensive and significant erosion on the Eastern section makes road essentially unpassable. None noted on the Western section.

Trash/Dumping: No

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: Both ends of the road have the "Closed for the April 1 - May 31st mud season" signs

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: There were tracks of a 4WD vehicle that had gone up the road recently - photos attached. Could have been after the end of May. Also met 5 or 6 ATV's coming up the road as I was returning. They were from Hillsborough and said they take this ride once a year. They seemed respectful of the area. Overall, I see occasional traffic of ATV's, etc., but not excessive. Foot traffic seems to have increased a bit.

Comments: Overall, the condition of the Western section of the road is Fair to Good; Eastern section is Poor.



Fortunes Road

Monitor(s): Brooks McCandlish

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: June 2020

Mileage: The Class VI portion of Fortune Rd (past the McDonald residence) is maintained in excellent condition and used year-round by the Nowell's to reach their place in Newbury, just over the Bradford line. The length of this section is approximately 0.5 miles.

Erosion: No

Obstructions: No

Trash/Dumping: No

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: No

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Residential traffic for access to home.

Jackson Road

Monitor(s): George Beaton

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: May 2021

Mileage: From its junction with Forest Road, Jackson extends approximately 0.3 miles to Howlett Road. The road is reasonably flat.

Erosion: Yes, in multiple places, notably around the driveway to 243. Overall, the road is "GOOD" with the exception of these mud holes.

Obstructions: None noted

Trash/Dumping: None noted.

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: None noted

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Appears to have a modest amount of residential and recreational traffic.

Other Conditions: George Beaton did some grading with this tractor this Spring to fill in some of the mud holes/ruts.



Liberty Hill Road

Monitor(s): Doug Southard

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: April 2021

Starting at Bradford/Henniker Town Line

Miles

- 0.00 Road in "FAIR" condition with frequent pools of water and rocks 4-8 inches.
- 0.14 Rip-rap appears to have been placed secondary to a logging operation. Road is fair to good from this point forward.
- 0.2 Substantial off-road damage has been done to embankment on West side of a bridge over a small stream.
- 0.5 LHR ends at 4-way junction with Day Pond Road (both ways) and a private road.

Erosion: Section closest to Henniker has significant erosion. Multiple large mud puddles encountered with vehicle tracks extending the road on both sides. Crushed rock placed on Bradford end makes a more stable surface for the road. Off-road damage next to bridge appears to be healing with no sign of recent ATV "mudding".

Obstructions: No significant obstructions, however, erosion is so significant close to the Henniker line, it could be considered an obstruction as noted above.

Trash/Dumping: No significant dumping noted.

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: There are "No ATVs/Dirt Bikes" signs placed at the junction of Day Pond Road and Liberty Road. End of ATV trail sign previously installed at the Bradford/Henniker town line is again missing. Jennifer McCourt at the Contoocook Valley ATV Club has been contacted regarding a replacement.

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Embankment damaged as noted above. No ATV activity directly observed at this time, however, mud bike tracks were seen in several locations.



Massasecum Ave

Monitor(s): Bindy Glennie and Doug Southard

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: April 2021

Mileage noted from junction with Rowe Mountain Road, Carter Hill Road, and Day Pond Road.

0.8 Road in generally "GOOD" condition with isolated rocks and water bars. Relatively fine gravel has been added in several places. However, traffic has created a washboard effect. In addition, several water bars are quite deep.

Erosion: Washboard surface in places and fairly deep water bars. However, these improvements seem to have limited overall erosion.

Obstructions: No

Trash/Dumping: Occasional and isolated.

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: Snowmobile trail signs noted at transition just prior to Class V section of the road. Regular transit of Jeep/truck caravans reported.

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Regularly used for motorized access by both residents and recreational.

Other Observations: There is a new driveway being installed for a camp at end of Massasecum Drive. Large boulders are now located at the junction.



Old Mountain Road

Monitor(s): Sandra Bravo and George Beaton

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: June 2021

Starting at West Rd:

Mile 0.0 to 0.4 - The road is maintained by abutting homeowners. The road surface is currently in "EXCELLENT" condition to Jane Lucas' driveway. There have been problems in the past with road maintenance disturbing the bank of the adjacent stream (Hoyt Brook), and with road material washing into the brook. Monitor update from June 2021 finds that the stream buffer in the first 1/2 mile continues to look good. Haybales were observed to be in place along this section of the brook (see pic). The road is posted at this end.

Mile 0.4 to 0.6 - The road crosses the brook and climbs a steep hill to another stream crossing. This section of road has washed out and subsequently rebuilt by abutters at least three times in the last thirty years, to provide access for forest management. It is currently in "GOOD" condition — the three-foot culvert now at the top is holding, but water bars on the hill are starting to fill and some erosion has started.

Mile 0.6 to 0.9 - This section is relatively flat and has been maintained by abutters to the driveway to the Butler camp. It is in "FAIR" to "GOOD" condition, with some wet sections where water ponds, and with fords across seasonal streams.

Mile 0.9 to 1.2 - From the Butler driveway to the Washington town line, the road is in "POOR" condition. The roadway has become a stream bed flowing for much of the year, and it has eroded to boulders, rocks and cobbles. The road is not posted at the Town Line.

We found conditions to be significantly the same as the last report. No new issues of concern were identified. Town line located (see pic with dog).



July 1, 2021

Purrington Road

Monitor(s): Doug Southard and Peter Blank

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: June 2021

Starting at County Road:

Miles

0.16 Road primarily level and in Good condition. Appears to be privately maintained. At 0.16 miles there is a sign indicating transition to private property.

Erosion: Generally, not significant.

Obstructions: No obstructions at this time.

Trash/Dumping: No dumping observed, though "No Dumping" signs were seen.

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage and Motorized Activities: The road is posted for Mud Season Closure at the juncture with County Road.

Rowe Mountain Road

Monitor(s): Doug and Barb Southard

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: April-June 2021

Starting at the beginning of the Class VI section of RMR from the Class V Section

Miles

- 0.0 Road initially level and then climbs up a significant hill. Overall road condition in the first 0.25 miles is "GOOD" due to crushed rock being laid associated with a timbering operation. From 0.25 miles to 0.5 miles the road appears only "FAIR" as the crushed rock was minimal compared to the first 0.25 miles. Snowmobile trail off Southard property enters at about 0.15 miles.
- 0.65 Snowmobile detour to the left (Northside).
- 0.75 Road conditions deteriorate substantially. Gentle downslope with significant rock outcropping, ledge and general erosion. Road condition is "POOR".
- 0.94 1st camp noted on right (Southside). Some crushed rock on road and conditions improve to "FAIR".
- 1.0 End of detour which comes in from the left. Road conditions improve to "GOOD".
- 1.7 RMR ends at four corners with Massasecum Road, Day Pond Road, and Carter Hill Road. Junction is "FAIR to GOOD" depending upon time of year and weather conditions. Can become a mud hole.

Erosion: Entire road suffers from erosion, however, the section from 0.75 to 0.94 miles is extremely eroded. Rocks/ledge drops of 1-2 feet are frequent in this section.

Obstructions: Other than the ledge noted above, no significant obstructions at this time.

Trash/Dumping: No significant dumping noted.

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: Snowmobile signage noted off Southard property and at 0.65 mile point as noted above. Gate in place at Southard property. Signage also at end of Rowe Mountain Road near the junction with Massasecum, Day Pond and Carter Hill Roads.

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Jeep/truck caravans, ATVs and dirt bikes are frequent on weekends. Bradford police have been responsive to citizen complaints regarding ATVs on this road.

Other: Sign at beginning of Class VI section indicating road closure for mud season is now labeled as April 1st – May 31st. Monitoring of this entrance during mud season documented 19+ violations of the road closure policy by trucks, mud-bikes and other OHRVs.



Smith Road

Monitor(s): George Beaton

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: May 2021

Road Conditions: Starting at the Junction of Smith Road and Rowe Mountain Road

Miles

0.38 Intersection with Tuttle Road – FAIR

0.48 Hill with significant erosion – FAIR

0.70 Smith Cellar Hole – FAIR

0.72 Old logging landing – GOOD

1.22 Ends on Forest Ave – GOOD

Erosion: Yes, in multiple places, particularly significant on hill about 0.5 miles from Rowe Mtn. Road junction (see pic). Ruts in sections crossed by logging rigs in Summer 2019 are diminishing. Crushed stone /gravel has been placed at the Forest St junction and a few other places.

Obstructions: None noted

Trash/Dumping: Nothing new.

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: Snowmobile trail signs placed at cutoff for new trail through Southard property toward the intersection with Rowe Mountain Road. Road posted for mud season closure at both ends.

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Evidence of dirt bikes and other vehicles. No significant ruts/erosions from these tracks noted.