Stewardship and Communication Work Group
Report to the
Vermont Trail Collaborative

Summary of
Vermont’s Universal Trail Ethic
Education Initiative

May – October 2010

Prepared by:
Brian D. Cotterill
Work Group Facilitator
October 7, 2010
Executive Summary
This report is a summary of the Stewardship and Communication Work Group’s process, accomplishments and recommendations for a state-wide education plan intended to improve the educational and interpretive information available for Vermont trail users and land managers. The data, products and recommendations within this report are intended to serve as a resource to the Vermont Trail Collaborative (VTC) community, government officials, land managers, organizations and the public in the pursuit of implementing measures for a more ecological and socially sustainable system of recreation and publically available trail resources in Vermont.

After six months of working together, the Stewardship and Communication Work Group performed outreach to 101 individuals via six public trail-user group meetings. The work-group also developed and administered a state-wide recreation and trail survey that reached over 10,000 individuals. These efforts were designed to provide mechanisms for public input with the purpose of generating stakeholder data and comments on the environmental and social sustainability of Vermont’s trail resources. Successful data collection informed the creation of a trail safety and education message aimed at branding a Universal Trail Ethic in Vermont. The work-group agreed this was important because a universally accepted trail ethic that establishes a common set of behavior expectations across all trail user groups does not currently exist in Vermont.

Our research informed the creation of a proposed Vermont Trail Ethic message and brand. This includes a trailhead sign containing ten behavioral trail use expectations and a stand-alone marketing logo. The logo and sign have emerged as the leading resources to deliver the proposed educational message.

We are thrilled to offer the data and recommendations contained within this report as a public resource. In particular, we anticipate that the data may be useful in other recreation related planning applications.

However, it is important to note that the Vermont Trail Ethic trailhead sign and logo are not currently available for use. We consider the Vermont Trail Ethic logo and trailhead sign strictly conceptual at this time. Key next steps outlined in this report will determine what happens next with the Vermont Trail Ethic concept. Next steps will address questions related to the Trail Collaborative community’s interest in adopting the trailhead sign and logo as a educational resource as well as the defining the process for participating in the Vermont Trail Ethic initiative.

One recommendation is to attempt to address the key questions between now and April, 201. Realizing that some of this work may extend beyond the established VTC end date, the Vermont Trails & Greenways Council (VT&GC) has agreed to be the point organization for the data and products related to the Vermont Trail Ethic. The VT&GC welcomes the assistance of other organizations in the development of this public resource.

This project would not have been possible without the participation members of Stewardship and Communication Work Group members. All participating members offered their time and leadership with respect to supporting Vermont’s recreation and trail resources. We anticipate continued support from the Vermont Trail Collaborative community as next steps are initiated and we aim to make the exploratory nature of our research, methods and findings transparent to all.
Background
The VTC was initiated in April 2009 as a two-year project. The VTC’s primary goal has been to establish a collaborative process to improve management of trails and recreation in the Green Mountain National Forest and surrounding areas. Appendix A outlines the planning processes, success indicators and the structure that was established for the VTC in September 2009.

To summarize, the VTC represents a diverse group of recreation and trail user interests from across the state of Vermont. The overarching goals are to foster communication among a broad range of stakeholders and to facilitate actions that will create a more ecologically and socially sustainable public recreation resource and trail-user experience.

Success of the initiative is defined by each VTC member agreeing that:
1. The process has made a substantial contribution to the betterment of social and biological health in the region.
2. The trail system is more sustainable today than it was two years ago and this will continue into the foreseeable future.
3. Our understanding of and application of science to trail and recreation management has improved.
4. We have empowered local or regional groups to continue making progress.

A steering committee, three work-groups and VTC participants make up the Trail Collaborative structure. The Steering Committee consists of an overarching VTC facilitator, three work-group facilitators and leaders from Federal, State and local planning agencies.

The Science Panel is one of the VTC’s three work-groups. The panel consists of representatives from the research community that interact with the other work-groups. It is charged with reviewing existing science and literature to determine the information most relevant to trail management issues in Vermont’s landscape.

The Stewardship and Communication Work Group is a collection of representatives from various Vermont recreation and trails organizations. This group’s focus is on expanding and prioritizing common efforts to develop a common set of trail behavior expectations, ways to increase volunteerism and user stewardship across all user groups, increase the amount and quality of information and education available as tools to address resource and social issues, and develop common trail construction and maintenance best management practices.

The Landscape Management Work Group consists of representatives from different levels of government. This group addresses landscape scale issues transcending landownership and jurisdictional boundaries that have been identified from local knowledge, previous planning and the collaborative process. The group will evaluate ways to improve upon the overall existing trail system in the Green Mountains1.

1 This and other Vermont Trail Collaborative documents can be found at the University of Vermont’s Tourism and Data Center website, www.uvm.edu/~snrvtdc/?Page=vttrailcollaborative.html
Goals and Objectives
As set forth in the RFP for a Stewardship and Communication Work Group facilitator administered by the VT&GC, the work-group used the goals listed below as a guide from May through October, 2010. (A copy of the RFP for a work-group facilitator and goals can be found in Appendix A.)

To summarize, initial goals for the work group included:

1. Build stakeholder participation and effective communication among work-group participants.
2. Identify trail issues (both universal and user specific) and create a common vision for addressing these issues to comprehensively address all potential user group interactions.
3. Develop a universal and common set of trail behavior expectations for Vermont, regardless of land ownership.
4. Compile a comprehensive list of efficient and practical means to share educational trail products thru multimedia resources and create a universal, graphical template that includes common messages determined by the workgroup.

In addition, the work-group framed their data collection needs by gathering stakeholder input from the perspective of a diverse set of trail user groups on the following topics:

1. Identification of trail and recreation resource issues.
2. Creation of an effective trail stewardship message for addressing trail and recreation resource issues.
3. Identification of effective messaging outlets for education around trail and recreation resource issues.
4. Identification of effective monitoring mechanisms for indicating social and environmental impact and overall success.

Methods
Group Process
As mentioned above, one primary goal was to build stakeholder participation and effective communication among participants. Group process methods for reaching that end included establishing an interactive information clearinghouse via a Google Group Web Page. Additional methods included establishing work-group success indicators, holding monthly work-group meetings and expanding the work-group to include additional members. The method for work-group decision-making was primarily consensus-based and the majority of decisions were made via phone conferences or in person meetings. Participation in the work-group was voluntary and fluctuated with individual member’s availability and interest. For a full list of Stewardship and Communication Work Group members and representative organizations see Appendix A.

Research
In addition to the group process methods above, two primary research methods were used to generate baseline data. The two methods described below include public trail user-group forums called “Trail Summits” and a statewide trail-use and recreation survey.

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2 Complete Stewardship and Communication Work Group resources can be found at the Google Group which is open to anyone who wishes to join at, http://groups.google.com/group/trails-collaborative-education-group
**Trail Summits**

Trail Summits were participatory meetings with the purpose of generating stakeholder data, comments and input on the sustainability of Vermont’s trail resources. We conducted six Trail Summits over the summer. In most cases workgroup members helped coordinate and schedule Trail Summits to align with pre-established meetings. This helped expedite scheduling Trail Summit meetings and allowed for maximizing participation. The following organizations hosted Trail Summits.

1. Vermont Trails and Greenways Council  
   April 20, 2010
2. Vermont Horse Council  
   June 13, 2010
3. Westmore Trails / Northwoods Stewardship Center  
   July 10, 2010
4. Catamount Trail Association  
   July 12, 2010
5. Green Mountain Club  
   July 14, 2010
6. Vermont All Terrain Sportsman’s Association  
   Sept. 13, 2010

Collectively, 101 individuals participated in the Trail Summits. Baseline questions, facilitation methodology and results from these trail user-group forums can be found in Appendix B. The work-group used some of this early data and feedback from participants to help formulate questions for the statewide trail-use and recreation survey.

**Trail-Use and Recreation Survey**

The work-group developed a survey in an effort to yield deeper stakeholder participation and a more robust data set for formulating a Trail Ethic education plan. We developed a nine question web-based survey tool using Survey Monkey.

Our sample selection method was geared to tap into the work-group members collective network of professional connections. Each work-group member used their own discretion when selecting the best method for encouraging survey participation for their professional network. Once the development of the survey was complete a web-based survey link was established and work-group members were encouraged to foster participation within their networks. Examples of methods used to promote participation in the survey include email invitations to pre-established list-serves, promoting survey participation via social media outlets, posting the survey link to blog sites and handing out paper surveys to trail users.

The goal was to get the survey out to as many Vermont trail users and recreationalists as possible. We recognize the inherent lack of randomness in our survey sample selection method and understand our method pre-selects trail user groups at different rates. However, we believe our survey was successful in communicating our intent and getting a relatively high degree of feedback from trail users about how best to frame and design the Trail Ethic education initiative.

We estimate over 10,000 invitations went out electronically. In total, 881 individuals responded and completed the survey over a two-week period. The survey had a 100% completion rate, meaning no one abandoned the survey once they started.

The paper copy version of the survey, a list of organizations that offered to help distribute the survey to their stakeholders and the complete survey results can be found in Appendix C.
Findings
For the most part the survey results informed the innovation of the Vermont Trail Ethic and the surveys key findings are illustrated in this section. For full data sets related to Trail Summits and the survey see Appendix B and C.

Survey respondents classify themselves as participating in recreation activities at the following levels when given the option to report numerous forms of recreational activity.

![Survey response for trail use](chart1)

Survey respondents classify their primary recreation and trail user group as follows when limited to choosing only one recreational preference.

![Survey response for preferred activity](chart2)

3 Note that the survey results are representative of a sample that was not selected at random. These survey results represent an uneven distribution of respondents representative of each primary trail user group. Thus, the findings are largely representative of the survey respondent demographics illustrated below and are not necessarily an accurate representation of Vermont trail users at large.
**Trail Resource Issues**

Survey results show that the top three most important issues for respondents related to *trail resource issues* were allowable trail access, landowner relationships and trail supply. The following are trail resource issues ranked from greatest to least concern for survey respondents.

1. Allowable Access
2. Landowner Relationships
3. Trail Supply
4. Trail Infrastructure
5. Trail Conditions
6. Natural Resources
7. Protecting Private Property
8. Conflict with Other Uses
9. Trail Demand
10. Conflict with Similar Use

**Stewardship Messages to Address Issues**

Possibly the most important findings are the *stewardship messages to address* that emerged from the 725 open responses recorded for the question “If Vermont had a Universal Trail Ethic what key messages would it communicate?”.

A tally of the comments resulted in 13 trend categories. The associated frequency of comments resulted in the bulleted list below of key messages to include in Vermont’s Trail Ethic.

330 Responses
- Share/ respect the trail and respect other users, leave the trail better than you found it.

214 Responses
- LNT on natural resources, historic structures and wildlife.

172 Responses
- Respect public and private property.

118 Responses
- Pack out your trash.

73 Responses
- Stay on marked trails & within trail boundaries. (Do not alter trail).
64 Responses
  • Message related to establishing who has right of way.
63 Responses
  • Info on how to volunteer, and take care of the trail.
52 Responses
  • Recreate responsibly, plan ahead, be safe and have fun.
50 Responses
  • Message indicating allowed uses.
46 Responses
  • Consider trail conditions first and stay off wet trails.
41 Responses
  • Follow all state and federal rules & laws.
24 Responses
  • Be prepared with food, water, and first aid.
18 Responses
  • Info on how to contribute financially to a trail-specific maintenance fund.

**Audience and Delivery Outlets for Stewardship Messaging**

Survey results and input from Trail Summits indicated that the best place to position Trail Ethic messaging is where trail users will be certain to encounter it. Trailhead kiosks, on-trail promotion and gear shops/recreation hubs emerged as the top three best outlets for the Vermont Trail Ethic message to be delivered. The following delivery outlets ranked most-to-least effective.

1. Trailhead Kiosks
2. On-Trail Promotion
3. Gear Shops and Recreation Hubs
4. Membership Campaigns
5. WWW
6. Tourism Centers
7. TV Advertisement
8. Radio Advertisement
9. Chambers of Commerce

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**Once a Universal Trail Ethic has been established, what is the best way to reach and communicate the message to users?**

![Graph showing effectiveness of different delivery outlets](image-url)
Measurable Monitoring Indicators of Successful Stewardship Messaging

Measuring and monitoring success of any future Vermont Trail Ethic activities likely will be the most challenging aspect. The data suggests that the top three elements to monitor and measure as Vermont Trail Ethic success indicators include factors such as number of open trails in good condition, degree of impact on natural resources and amount of collaboration across trail user groups.

While Satisfaction of Recreational Experience ranked lower at number 5, it emerged as the indicator that would yield the greatest benefit for the cost of implementing and a success indicator worth exploring deeper for the Vermont Trail Ethic. The following were reported most-to-least important to measure as success indicators by survey respondents. Some items on the list may be more practical to measure than others and some items may not be measurable at all.

1. Trails are Open and in Good Condition
2. Natural Resource Impact
3. Collaboration Across User Groups
4. User Conflict
5. Satisfaction of Recreational Experience
6. Frequency of Allowed Use Violations
7. New Use Allowances
8. New Trails
9. Frequency of Trail Closures
10. Financial Health of Trails Organizations

Over the long term, what are the most important things to measure to gauge the success of a Universal Trail Ethic in Vermont?

![Graph showing the most important things to measure to gauge the success of a Universal Trail Ethic in Vermont]

- Must Measure
- Measure
- Don't Measure
Vermont’s Universal Trail Ethic and Associated Conclusions

The work group used key findings to further inform the development of the Vermont Trail Ethic concept, message, brand and delivery method. A trail-head sign and logo were developed with the help of a graphic designer. Through work-group discussions we distilled the graphic design down to one final concept. The intention behind the chosen graphic design was for it to be simple, universally appealing and easily recognizable. The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) was a good example of a multi use trail that might benefit from using the Vermont Trail Ethic, with LVRT’s permission we included their name and contact information on the conceptual illustration below.

The sign features a logo, ten behavioral expectations, contact information for the VT&GC and custom contact information for the host organization. In this example the trail host is illustrated in a font type and color consistent with the rest of the sign. Alternate versions of the sign may simply provide blank space for trail host and contact information to be displayed. The Vermont Trail Ethic trailhead sign itself represents a good summary of our work and conclusions.

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VERMONT

TRAIL ETHIC

Help keep Vermont’s recreation and trail resources healthy.

1. Share the trail and respect other users.
2. Respect landowners and private property.
3. Use good judgement and tread lightly; trail conditions are subject to change at any time.
4. Stay on marked trails.
5. Leave no trace with respect to natural resources, historic structures and wildlife.
6. Be prepared with food, water and first aid.
7. Pack out your trash.
9. Plan ahead, be safe and have fun.
10. Know the allowable and appropriate use of the trail you are traveling on.

Visit: www.vermonttrailsandgreenways.org for more information.

LAMOILLE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL

Contact the trail manager to comment on the satisfaction of your trail experience or to help maintain this trail as a volunteer. Visit: www.lvrt.org or Call (802) 229-0005
In addition to the trailhead sign a stand-alone logo was developed for use by participating organizations and individuals. The indented use of the logo is to provide an easily recognizable brand for those that stand behind and promote the Vermont Trail Ethic. Use in flyers, reports, on websites and promotional material is the intended formal function of the logo. Promotion via stickers, posters or on t-shirts is an option for low cost marketing. Here, the VT&GC’s web site is listed as a place where people can go to learn more.

Again, the trailhead sign and logo are not officially available at this time and this is the first time they have been published. The “next steps” outlined in the following section of this report are intended to determine the Vermont Trail Collaborative’s interest in making these resources publically available and how best to address the remaining questions related to such a project’s implementation.

Finally, it is clear that the Vermont Trail Ethic concept has the attention of a number of individuals and organizations that took the survey. Of the 881 survey respondents 541 provided individual or organizational contact information to be kept in the loop on the initiative. In addition, when asked “What resources one would be willing to contribute to establish and maintain a Trail Ethic for Vermont?” many responded with specific examples of their ability to contribute time or money. Largely, it is clear that these people would simply like to know more about this effort.
**Recommendations**

Based on key findings the work-group proposes that these graphics be considered for adoption by the Trail Collaborative community as an educational resource.

Key next steps and focus questions for the work-group to consider include:

- Share the final concept with the Trail Collaborative community to get feedback and stimulate additional discussion.
- Communicate with survey respondents about survey results and the availability of this report.
- Address the question of precisely how to administer the Vermont Trail Ethic.
  - Is VT&GC best positioned to “house” the Vermont Trail Ethic?
  - Is there an application or “pledge” associated with using/adopting the Ethic?
  - How best to print signs consistently?
  - What is the best process for getting signs out the door and into the field?
  - How might land management agencies set the example for the rest of the state?
  - Is funding required and if yes, how much?
- Determine a method to best monitor success.
  - What tools or training need to be developed so that methods for indicating success can be used consistently across different recreation and trail uses?
  - What is the process for establishing baseline data?
  - What is the process and frequency of data collection?
  - How can the data collection methods be leveraged to fill additional needs within Vermont’s recreation and trail user community?

We look forward to addressing these and other questions with all interested members of the Vermont Trail Collaborative and amending this agenda as needed over the ext six months of the Collaborative Process.
Appendix A:
Guiding Documents

Stewardship and Communication Work Group
Report to the
Vermont Trail Collaborative

Summary of
Vermont’s Universal Trail Ethic
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May – October 2010

Prepared by:
Brian D. Cotterill
Work Group Facilitator
October 7, 2010
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Vermont Trail Collaborative
Planning Process Proposal

Trail Collaborative
Green Mountain National Forest and Surrounding Areas
Collaborative Planning Process Proposal
September 3, 2009

Goals:
Establish a collaborative process to improve management of trails and recreation in the Green Mountain National Forest and surrounding areas. Complete the formal collaborative process within two years (spring 2011). Success is defined by each member of the collaborative agreeing that:

1. The process has made a substantial contribution to the betterment of social and biological health in the region.
2. The trail system is more sustainable today than it was two years ago and this will continue into the foreseeable future.
3. Our understanding of and application of science to trail and recreation management has improved.
4. We have empowered local or regional groups to continue making progress.

Principles:

- Focus on common values while working to resolve issues that can only be dealt with at a larger scale (e.g., addressing social conflicts and perceived equity among various types of trail recreation, mitigating landscape level effects to wildlife and important habitats, quantifying possible cumulative effects to soil/water/air, identifying common priorities and strategies for user compliance and education, identifying/agreeing upon common maintenance practices or standards, etc.) while engaging and empowering local place-based groups, communities and citizens to resolve issues that are site-specific.

- Engage groups and individuals that represent the diversity of views, interests and demographics. Include individuals who are creative or civic leaders that may not belong to a particular interest group and are leaders in their communities, arts, schools, etc. Include youth.

- Make process transparent and invite participation early, often and throughout. Follow Federal Advisory Committee Act requirements by ensuring all meetings are advertised and open to the public. Use technology effectively to unify, build trust and be open and transparent.

- Incorporate best available science that is relevant to this particular landscape. Include science in the process itself, social sciences and physical or biological sciences. Focus on a few key priorities to expand or create ‘new’ science, as necessary, appropriate, and feasible.

- Utilize an ‘adaptive’ approach (i.e., don’t try to answer all questions, or resolve all conflicts, for all time). Make agreed upon changes that will substantially improve the current situation over the next 10-15 years.

- Based on common, shared information from the collaborative, each landowner will make decisions that it deems appropriate, using methods it deems are appropriate. Any ‘sideboards’ that landowners and governments have should be made known.
Structure:

**Overall Trail Collaborative** - Has at least one representative from each group/organization that wants to participate. Includes individual participants willing and interested in volunteering their time over the course of two years. This group meets 2-4 times per year to review and provide feedback to the steering committee, science panel, and each work group.

**Steering Committee** - Consists of the overall facilitator for the effort (UVM Extension) and government leaders (i.e., Federal agencies, State agencies, and a member of a Regional Planning Commission to represent municipal and regional planning perspectives). This group meets to determine the process, and consult as necessary on policy or decision-making issues related to the process. Members of the Steering Committee include:

- Lisa Chase – University of Vermont Extension
- Ed O’Leary – Vermont State Dept of Forests, Parks and Recreation
- Meg Mitchell – Green Mountain National Forest
- Chad VanOrmer – Green Mountain National Forest
- John Bennett – Windham Regional Commission

**Science Panel** - An independent panel of 8-10 representatives from the research community and collaborative group that interacts with all other groups and is charged with reviewing existing science and literature to determine the most relevant to trail management issues in this landscape. The panel will recommend the most relevant new science (i.e., original research) priorities to be pursued. Lisa Chase will facilitate the panel.

Members of the Science Panel include:

- Bob Manning, University of Vermont
- Jim Harding, Green Mountain College
- Other representatives from the overall trail collaborative

**Stewardship and Communication Work**  – (Formerly the User Compliance, Stewardship and Education Work Group), this group will focus on expanding and prioritizing common efforts to:

1. develop a common set of trail behavior expectations regardless of land ownership,
2. increase volunteerism and user stewardship across all user groups,
3. increase the amount and quality of information and education available as tools to address resource and social issues, and
4. develop common trail construction and maintenance best management practices.

A proposal has been presented to the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council to facilitate this group. One does not need to be a member of the Council to participate in the work group.

**Landscape Management Work Group** - Exact membership of this group will be somewhat fluid, as we move from north to south across the Green Mountains. This group will evaluate ways to improve upon the overall existing trail system in the Green Mountains. We will invite any interested persons to participate and groups with local knowledge to engage in workshops. A core group will consist of representatives from different levels of government and the science panel. The facilitator will be John Bennett. Web-based systems or other technologies may also be used for keeping people engaged and soliciting feedback. The core group will keep the overall collaborative engaged and updated periodically.
Generally, the objectives of the group will be to address landscape scale issues transcending landownership and jurisdictional boundaries which have been identified from local knowledge, previous planning and the collaborative process. The general trail management objectives the group will address include:

- Identify high priority statewide or regionally important trails that transition across various land owners. Determine priority trails for management in perpetuity through identifying land interest acquisition (easements, fee, etc.) and/or management agreement priorities.
- Identify sources and possible actions to remedy unacceptable ecological impacts (i.e., soil erosion, deer wintering areas, etc.) and/or social conflicts (noise, conflicting uses, etc.) on the existing trails system.
- Identify existing trails that may be appropriate for multiple use management by adding additional uses. This process will include identifying and/or developing criteria that will determine the sustainability (both social and ecological) of the proposed trail.
- Identify and address any public health and safety concerns of the existing trail system, such as mixed motorized uses (i.e., snowmobiles and automobiles using the same travel route).
- Identify existing trails that are determined to not be ecologically sustainable and/or that receive very little use for decommissioning.
- Identify potential new trails that are in sustainable locations, have a need based on supply and demand, and are supported by multiple user groups to assist in the long-term operations and maintenance.
- Establish cost estimates for operating and maintaining the existing and proposed trail system, including any existing backlog of maintenance needs.
- Identify areas with particular compliance concerns and develop strategies and priorities to address these concerns (i.e. signage, education, joint enforcement, etc.).

(Note - On federal lands, the NEPA process may apply and be utilized in order to evaluate any site specific options and alternatives identified by the landscape management group.)
Work Group Facilitator RFP

Request For Proposals for Facilitation of the Green Mountain Trails Collaborative Stewardship and Communication Committee

DEADLINE MARCH 15, 2010

The Vermont Trails and Greenways Council (VT&GC) wishes to retain the services of an individual or company to facilitate the Green Mountain Trails Collaborative (GMTC) Stewardship and Education Committee. The Vermont Trails & Greenways Council seeks to ensure that people will always have access to adequate land and water-based trails and greenways. The focus of the Council’s mission is providing education and advocacy for all types of trail users in Vermont. The Council, therefore, has undertaken the important task of directing a facilitator to provide a comprehensive report on statewide trail stewardship and communication thru the Green Mountain Trails Collaborative. The GMTC represents a diverse group of interests from across the State of Vermont. The goal of the GMTC is to foster communication amongst a broad range of stakeholders and to facilitate actions that will create a more ecologically and socially sustainable public recreation trail experience. This work will result in a report that will be used by the GMTC to provide common trail stewardship messages to the public. This contract would commence on March 25th, 2010 and be completed no later than October 10, 2010. The selected contractor will work under the supervision of the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council. The contractor will facilitate 5-7 meetings of the Stewardship and Education Committee as well as ensure the ongoing productivity of this committee as it pertains to the final report. The subcontractor will also represent this committee and its priorities at 3-4 Green Mountain Trails Collaborative meetings in 2010.

This committee is an established workgroup that includes diverse representatives of the Vermont trails community.

Specific tasks will include:

• Facilitate and direct the Stewardship and Communication Workgroup as part of the Green Mountain trails collaborative to identify trail issues (both universal and user specific) as well as create a common vision for addressing these issues to comprehensively cover all potential user group interactions.
• Expand the workgroup to include 3 or more underrepresented groups such as towns and trail commissions.
• Maintain information clearinghouse (website, Google Groups Page, etc.) that updates the Committee on progress and tasks to be completed as determined in collaboration with the VT Trails and Greenways Council.
• Compile a comprehensive list of efficient and practical means to divulge educational trail products thru multimedia resources. This should include media that would capture trail users’ attention to disseminate common trail messages/etiquette.
• Create universal, high-resolution .jpeg/.pdf template to be used in multimedia products that includes common messages determined by the workgroup.
• Work under guidance of Council, using the membership base as a resource for this process.
• Hold 5-7 meetings/conference calls with workgroup
• Attend and represent workgroup at 3-4 Green Mountain Trails Collaborative meetings.
• Produce a 20-40 page report that includes the following:

  Green Mountain Trails Collaborative – Stewardship Education Work Group
  Green Mountain Trail Stewardship Education Plan Table of Contents

A. Title
B. Executive Summary
C. Introduction/Background
D. Purpose/Objectives
E. Methods
F. Trail Resource Issues
G. Audience(s) (or Market(s)) to Receive Stewardship Messages
H. Stewardship Messages to Address Issues
I. Multi-media Methods and Delivery Outlets for Messaging to Target Audience(s)
J. Measurable Monitoring Indicators of Successful Stewardship Messaging
K. Conclusions
L. Literature Cited
Appendix 1: Sample Stewardship Sign Template

Qualifications:
• Demonstrated ability to facilitate workgroups and produce timely results
• Excellent writing and research skills
• Knowledge of trail issues and other related recreation issues in the state of Vermont
• Demonstrated ability to work independently
• Demonstrated ability to organize and facilitate public meetings
• Demonstrated experience in meeting deadlines
• Provide proof of liability insurance covering these activities

Please respond by March 15, 2010 with a proposal that includes a letter of interest, resume or statement of qualifications and list of four references to:

  Vermont Trails and Greenways Council
  Danny Hale, Chair
  c/o Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association, Inc. (VASA)
  14 Don Camp Drive
  Barre, VT 05641
  Or via email: director@vtvasa.org

Appendix A - VTC Stewardship and Communication Work Group – October 2010
Stewardship and Communication Work Group Members

The following individuals are Stewardship and Communication Work Group participating members from May, 2010 through October, 2010. Volunteering members participated at varying levels based on individual interest and availability. Note, prior to May, 2010 this work group was referred to this group as the User Compliance, Stewardship and Education Work Group.

Alexis Nelson  
Vermont Association of Snow Travelers and  
Vermont Trails and Greenways Council Officer

Amy Hermann  
Manchester Parks and Recreation Department

Cindi Wight  
Rutland Recreation and Parks Department

Craig Whipple  
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

Danny Hale  
Vermont All Terrain Sportsman's Association and Vermont Trails and Greenways Council Officer

Doug Weber  
Vermont Off-Highway Recreation Association

Ed O'Leary  
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

Heidi Fleury  
Green Mountain Club

Jeanette Cole  
Vermont Horse Council

Jessi Hudson  
Vermont Association of Snow Travelers

Jessica Rickettson  
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and Vermont Trails and Greenways Council Officer

Mark Maghini  
US Fish and Wildlife Service

Sherry Winnie  
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

Todd Taylor  
Local Motion

Tom Butland  
Green Mountain Plonkers

Tony Clark  
Moosalamoo Association

Walter Opuszynski  
Northern Forest Canoe Trail and  
Vermont Trails and Greenways Council Officer
Appendix B:
Trail Summits

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Upcoming Trail Summit Article
This article written for the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council’s summer 2010 newsletter.

Council Takes a Lead Role in Vermont Trail Collaborative Initiative

The Vermont Trails and Greenways Council is thrilled to announce our continued involvement in the Vermont Trail Collaborative. The Trail Collaborative was established in April 2009 as a public process designed to improve management of trails and recreation in the Green Mountain National Forest and surrounding areas.

The Council recently hired consultant Brian D. Cotterill to lead the Trail Collaborative’s Stewardship and Communication workgroup. Brian will represent the Council as the workgroup facilitator and take the lead coordinating a statewide effort to improve the educational and interpretive information available for public trail users. The project aligns well with the Council’s focus on trail resource education across user groups and we are grateful for the support provided by the Green Mountain National Forest and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to fund the project.

As a part of this project the Trails & Greenways Council is sponsoring Trail Summit meetings at locations around the state this summer with the purpose of generating stakeholder participation, comments and input regarding the sustainability of Vermont’s trail resources. Successful Trail Summit meetings will inform a trail education and safety messaging campaign aimed at branding a universal trail-use ethic for Vermont. Trail Summits will also serve as a mechanism to capture the voice of Vermont’s trail users with regards to “what is working” and “what could be better” when it comes to creating, maintaining and using public trails in Vermont.

Your input is critical to the recommendations the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council will propose to the Trail Collaborative and land managers this fall. You can participate by hosting a Trail Summit meeting or by encouraging your stakeholders to take our survey later this summer.

Contact Stewardship and Communication work group facilitator Brian D. Cotterill at bdcotterill@gmail.com for more information on how to participate. Or visit https://www.uvm.edu/~snrvtdc/?Page=vttrailcollaborative.html to learn more about the Vermont Trail Collaborative and the efforts of its workgroups.
Trail Summit Facilitation Methodology

This method was developed by the work-group facilitator as a process for generating stakeholder participation and data at Trail Summits.

Trail Summit Facilitation
A Stewardship and Communication Work Group Resource
A project of the Vermont Trail Collaborative & Vermont Trails and Greenways Council

Note: Save all posters and results for data entry by project manager
Vermont Trails and Greenways Council  
Trail Summit Results  
April 20, 2010  
Facilitator and Note Taker: Jessica Rickettson

The following are the outcomes of the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council’s Trail Summit meeting held at their quarterly meeting in April. (* Indicates frequency and that the item was mentioned in a session more than once.)

**Trail Resources at Stake. (What is at risk or vulnerable?)**
1. Volunteers  
2. Communications (to users and between users)  
3. Maintenance of trail infrastructure  
4. Funding  
5. Access  
6. Ecosystem concerns  
7. Safety, user preparedness and liability issues  
8. Multi use (mud season, user interactions, etc.)  
9. Connections and linkages  
10. Available land for new trails

**Education and Stewardship Messages. (Key elements of Vermont’s universal trail ethic.)**
- T - R - A - I - L - S  
  1. Trail values and benefits  
  2. Resource protection  
  3. Attitudes/ethics (LNT, fires, etc.) or Access  
  4. Interactions with other users (hunting, multi-use, etc.)  
  5. Land – landowners, etc. or LNT  
  6. Safety- preparedness

**Branding and Delivery. (How to deliver the message?)**
1. New media: i-phone app, website  
2. Public process and origins:  
   a. Background (why)  
   b. Comprehensive documents and summary  
   c. PR news articles **  
   d. Newsletter, etc.  
3. Graphics and logo  
   a. Links to other resources: ex. VT Seal of Quality

**Sustainability Indicators and Monitoring. (What are the methods for measuring success?)**
1. What to measure?  
2. How to measure?  
   a. Tools  
3. Outcomes- opportunities are still there and improving?
**Discussion on Missing Input**

1. Discussion about water quality etc. If it comes out of this process as a common message, how to address it?
2. Effects on wildlife
3. Climbers - CRAG
4. Motorized concerns - good users all have the same concerns
Vermont Horse Council
Trail Summit Results

June 13, 2010
UVM Extension Office, Berlin VT
Facilitator and Note Taker: Brian D. Cotterill
Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Members in Attendance:
   Mike Benoit
   Martha Benoit
   Heidi Krantz
   Betsy Greene
   Karen Blow
   Terry Rose
   Roger Morin
   Leslie Chadwell

The following are the outcomes of the Vermont Horse Council’s Trail Summit meeting.
(* Indicates frequency and that the item was mentioned in a session more than once.)

Trail Resources at Stake (What is at risk or vulnerable?)
1. Space for parking, turnout – horse tie or fence. **
3. Signage – are equestrians welcome? Where do we go?
4. Safety – water crossings, bridges need solid decking (unlike many VAST bridges that have large gaps in decking).
5. Shrinking base of accessible trails for equine use. **
6. Abuse of land by users and over use. **
7. Water quality impacted by use.
8. Keep access for equines on current trails.
9. Education, who is ultimately liable/ responsible for…
   a. Accidents/ injury on private land?
   b. Financial upkeep?
   c. Maintenance?

Education and Stewardship Messages (Key elements of Vermont’s universal trail ethic?)
2. Restriction during mud season.
3. Respect other users. **
4. Stay on marked trails.
5. Respect private property owners.
6. Report damage/ issues/ user conflict to information clearing house. Who is the keeper of this info?
7. Clear designations of users allowed on each trail.
8. Degree of difficulty information for each trail.
9. Education about how other users should approach/ pass a horse on trail.
10. Advance notice for winding, narrow, steepness, water and hazards.
11. Ride at own risk and liability clause.

**Branding and Delivery (How to deliver the message?)**
1. Posters/ signage at trail heads.
2. Clear and consistent signage (high tech and low tech methods).
3. State and Federal financial support and education about how to use/ access the funds.
4. Trail maps, hard copy and web, outlets for messaging at…
   a. Chambers.
   b. Rest stops.
   c. Stables.
   d. Websites.
5. Key words for web search-engine optimization…
   a. Multi use equestrian.
   b. Trail recreation.
6. Web interface for communication between user groups.
7. Radio interviews, TV, multimedia messaging.
8. State vets, riding clubs, breed associations, word of mouth, 4-H, pony clubs, mailings, posters.
10. Establish event calendar on web to minimize user group conflict, large group event “registration”.

**Sustainability Indicators and Monitoring (What are the methods for measuring success?)**
1. Surveys.
2. User group frequency – trailhead log. **
3. Passes purchased to use system - $ to go towards maintenance, insurance. **
4. Issue permits for free, restrict use by day of the week.
5. Signage directing users to website for survey/ reporting.
6. Increase donations of time to maintain system.
7. Support by Feds and State in the form of $ and time.
8. Documentation of contributions to the state economy by various recreation groups.
9. Establish endowments to trails foundation.
10. Adopt-a-trail and club support (adopt regional maintenance models statewide… how does GMC do it for example?)
11. Easy mechanism for closing the trail user feedback loop.
Westmore Trails
Trail Summit Results

July 10, 2010
Wheeler Pond Camps, Barton VT
Facilitator and Note Taker: Brian D. Cotterill
Time: 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Members in Attendance:
   Joe and Judy Anastasia
   Ed Quest
   Michael Chevick
   Luke O'Brien
   Bart Selle
   Dave Ratio
   Walter McNue
   Judy Young
   Stan Dunkle
   Jean Haigh

The following are the outcomes of the Westmore Trails, Barton Group Trail Summit meeting. (* Indicates frequency and that the item was mentioned in a session more than once.)

Trail Resources at Stake (What is at risk or vulnerable?)
1. Keeping access.
2. Landowner relationships (existing and future).
3. Landowner education (re. liability and new easement access).
   a. Regional and local.
5. Respect.
   a. For trail resources (Particularly surrounding illegal/ rogue use).
   b. Property.
   c. Overuse.
   d. Wildlife and habitat.
6. The “ethic” message is at stake if we allow ATV’s on public land.
7. A responsiveness of state and federal land managers.
8. Schism between motorized and non-motorized community.
9. User groups alienating each other.

Education and Stewardship Messages (Key elements of Vermont’s universal trail ethic?)
1. Leave no trace principals.
2. Landowner communication.
   a. Permission, easement education and appreciation.
3. Make known the…
   a. Use of the land.
b. Trail maintainer.
c. Allowed uses (including non-trail use).
d. Etiquette of other trail uses (right-of-way & how to behave when approaching a horse, for example).

**Branding and Delivery (How to deliver the message?)**

1. Signage.
2. Education via guidebooks and maps.
3. Involve youth, especially in activities that involve physical activity (boy/girl scouts).
4. Allow sensitivity to ensure message gets to all regardless of income, age or ability.
5. Methods of outreach.
   a. School programs and service learning.
   b. WWW.
      i. Facebook/ twitter.
      ii. Key word searching.
   c. Music benefits (get a recognized name behind the effort).
   d. National trails day.
   e. Market a logo.
      i. Business relationships and promotion.
      ii. Clubs.
      iii. Chambers of commerce.
      iv. Print advertisement.
      v. User group leader orgs band together (out-reach).
      vi. Travel and tourism hubs.
   f. Cross communication/ promotion between different user groups.
   g. Educate private land groups.
   h. Promote at Vt. Trail Symposium.
   i. Post at trailhead kiosk.
   j. Target Vt. publications.

**Sustainability Indicators and Monitoring (What are the methods for measuring success?)**

1. Increase in youth participation via membership in trail organizations.
2. Programs directed to classrooms.
3. Reduction in miss-use.
4. Mileage of open trails to remain the same or grow (no closures).
5. Monitor results via surveys.
6. Improved sustainability.
   a. More trail adoption.
7. Reduced user complaints.
8. Growth in user group membership.
9. More cross communication between user groups and exchange of info.
10. Web based bulletin board/ calendar/ user reporting interface.
11. Monitor posting of land.
12. Harmony between user groups.
13. Translate benefit to dollars.
14. Universal mechanism for easily reporting trails conditions, maintenance & problems (ex. Views From the Top web site.)
Catamount Trail Association
Trail Summit Results

July 12, 2010
Gifford Medical Center, Randolph VT
Facilitator and Note Taker: Brian D. Cotterill
Time: 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Members in Attendance:
   Amy Kelsey
   Bill Michels
   Craig Hadden
   Andy McIntosh
   Paul Kendall
   Kris Roomet
   Lynn Fisher

The following are the outcomes of the Catamount Trail Association’s Trail Summit meeting.
(* Indicates frequency and that the item was mentioned in a session more than once.)

Trail Resources at Stake (What is at risk or vulnerable?)
1. Access to private lands.
2. Snow! (Climate change as a driver.)
3. Erosion and overuse.
4. Lumbering issues.
5. Skier safety, aesthetics, noise.
7. Trail conditions.
8. Safety of others users.
9. Conflict with other user groups.
10. Established routes.
11. Quality of recreational experience.
12. Respect among user groups.
13. Infrastructure (bridges, culverts, etc.)
14. Maintenance sharing and coordination.
15. Number of active volunteers.

Education and Stewardship Messages (Key elements of Vermont’s universal trail ethic?)
1. Respect.
   a. Of environment.
   b. Of others.
   c. Of trail resource.
   d. Of restrictions on trail (user types, season, etc.)
2. Stay on trail.
   a. As appropriate (maybe different on public vs private land).
3. This is your trail”  
   a. Communicate sense of communal resource.  
   b.  
4. Leave no trace.  
5. Report problems to ….?
6. “Lend a hand when you can”. 
7. Safety.  
8. Preparedness. 
   a. Know where you are.  
9. No trimming corridor for new routes. 
   a. No rogue routes. 
10. Clean up after pets.  
11. Have fun!  

**Branding and Delivery (How to deliver the message?)**  
1. Audience. 
   a. General VT public.  
   b. Trail users of all types.  
   a. Membership.  
   b. Newsletters.  
   c. Trailhead signs (blazes on trail).  
   d. Websites & trail guides.  
   e. Slogan message.  
   f. Stickers.  
   g. Public service message.  
   h. Retailers.  
   i. USFS, FPR land manager literature and signage.  
   j. Schools and camps groups.  
   a. Acronym that promotes the following  
      i. Share the trail.  
      ii. Care for the trail.  
      iii. Fun on the trail.  
      iv. Protect the trail.  
      v. Responsibility on the trail.  
   b. Thanks to the landowners.  
   c. Purpose of the land.  
   d. Thanks to the trail maintainers.  
   e. Develop a logo as a brand.  

**Sustainability Indicators and Monitoring (What are the methods for measuring success?)**  
1. What is the baseline of info? Who establishes and creates this?  
2. Fewer complaints and trail conflict reports.  
3. Sampling and surveys to gauge awareness and compliance.  
4. Presence and frequency of the “message/ logo” in the field and in association materials.
5. Financial health of trail user groups and associations as indirect measure of utilization.
6. Intensity of review process.
7. Fewer actual or threatened trail closings.
8. More easements.
   a. Landowner education and comfort with entering into easements.
Green Mountain Club  
Trail Summit Results

July 14, 2010  
Green Mountain Club, Waterbury VT  
Facilitator and Note Taker: Brian D. Cotterill  
Time: 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Members in Attendance:  
Marge Fish  
Ben Rose  
Doug Reeves  
Chad VanOrmer  
Carol Langley  
Hawk Merheny  
Henry Smith  
Jim Sullivan  
Maureen Robertson  
Dick Andrews  
Richard Windish  
Michal Chcinich  
Charlene Bohl

The following are the outcomes of the Green Mountain Club’s Trail Summit meeting.  
(* Indicates frequency and that the item was mentioned in a session more than once.)

Trail Resources at Stake (What is at risk or vulnerable?)

1. Ground surface – sustainable tread way. *
   a. Not torn up by OHV or horses.
2. Trail users that are active supporters now get turned off turned away.
3. Water resources. *
4. Quiet – low use backcountry experience. ****
5. Encroaching development. *
6. Historic buildings (ex. Copper lodge needs to be removed due to mis-use).
7. Hikers displaced by the inconsiderate.
8. Historic character of trails.
9. Sometimes, the trail itself (ex. closures).
10. Impacts from renewable energy projects (ex. industrial wind towers in view shed).
11. Sensitive flora and fauna. *
12. Introducing invasive plants. *
13. Ability for user groups to work together and come to consensus.
15. Relationships with adjacent landowners.
16. Free, first come – first serve “open” experience for pedestrians (supply and demand).
17. Wildlife.
Education and Stewardship Messages (Key elements of Vermont’s universal trail ethic?)

1. Respect.
   a. For environment.
   b. For designated uses.
   c. For other users.
   d. For historic context.
   e. For non-human visitors/habitat.

2. No building trails without permission.

3. Stay on designated trails allowed for your use.

4. Know your audience and customize the message in how you deliver it.
   a. Message sent is message received.

5. Idea “Trails to Every Classroom”.

6. Transcend and resonate with all user groups and communities.


8. Appropriate uses for appropriate places.

9. Focus on a positive message.
   a. Not a bunch of “NO’s” in the message.

Brandin and Delivery (How to deliver the message?)

1. Persuade rather than mandate.
   a. Be careful not to confuse by distinguishing this from LNT.

2. Maybe valuable brands already exist.
   a. GMNF, FPR, GMC, VAST, CTA, VMBA, VASA

3. Message should be clear, constant and consistent.

4. Be aware that getting the message out will take time (perhaps a measurement caution here).

5. Confiscate trespassing machinery.

6. Have trails fit their environment.
   a. Scale, contour, surface.

7. Appeal to individuals that want to experience a historic and unique VT landscape.
   a. Use something like “A historic landscape saved for future generations.”

8. Comprehensive reference material by the type of use.
   a. Rating and difficulty reference system.

9. Trail user workshops for maintenance and appreciation.

10. Internet and social media.

11. Multiple-use trails are Cooperative-use trails.

12. Expand messages to trail users such as hunters and anglers.

13. VT brand of “National Trails Day”.

14. Get message to educators.
   a. Workshops.
   b. Project Learning Tree.
   c. Forest for Every Classroom.

Sustainability Indicators and Monitoring (What are the methods for measuring success?)

1. Condition of trails.
   a. Doable indicator like inventory conditions every 5 years.

2. Establish user feedback loops.
a. Clubs, trail logs etc.
3. Number of people using trails.
4. Measure user level of satisfaction.
5. Number of user groups working together and partnering.
6. Level of information sharing amongst different user groups.
7. Measure if people embracing or opposing what is put into place?
8. Number of illegal use/access incidents.
9. Question, who will measure and report?
10. Vandalism decreases and fewer incidents.
11. Capacity of trail managing organizations to address needs.
12. Wide variety of use across generations.
Vermont All Terrain Sportsman’s Association
Trail Summit Results

September 13, 2010
VASA Monthly Meeting, Barre VT
Facilitator and Note Taker: Brian D. Cotterill
Time: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Members in Attendance:
Board members-
  Steve Carlin
  John Lavanway
  Tracy Durkee
  Scott Davis
  Marc Broughton
  Mike Lynch
  Dave Brown
  Ray Viger
  Andre Geoffrey
  Jon Pallas
  Paul Morse
  Dan Heath
  Dennis Newland
  Gary Nolan
  Brian Willette
  Craig Vance
  Lloyd Church
  Lincoln Paquette
  Wilson Tucker
  Anah Tuttle
  Mark Clough
  Heman Durkee III
  Ray Cole

Staff present-
  Danny Hale
  Dani Davis
  Steve McLeod

Visitors Present-
  Ethel Newland
  Wayne Longer
  Doug Weber
  Tom Butland
  Debra Church
  Jeff McLaughlin
  Sherry Smith
The following are the outcomes of the Vermont All Terrain Sportsman’s Association Trail Summit meeting. (* Indicates frequency and that the item was mentioned in a session more than once.)

**Trail Resources at Stake (What is at risk or vulnerable?)**
1. Legal and managed public access. ***
2. Funding. ***
3. Motorized access to trails. ***
4. Landowner relationships in general. ***
5. Landowner relationships related to liability. ***
6. Resources to maintain sustainable trail systems. ***
7. Recognition of the value of motorized recreations.
8. State revenue related to motorized recreation and tourism. **
9. Handicap access to remote areas and outdoor recreation. *
10. Law enforcement. *
11. Access for persons wanting to ride legally.
12. Loss of club membership.

**Education and Stewardship Messages (Key elements of Vermont’s universal trail ethic?)**
1. Respect all other trail user groups. *
2. Work together to maintain trails. **
3. Carry in – Carry out… everything. *
4. Respect the land conditions. *
5. Respect the wildlife and environment. *
6. Share resources responsibly. **
7. Work together to construct trails. **
8. Public relations with non-riding public. **
9. Respect opportunities provided by landowners. *
10. Be safe, prepared and informed. *
11. Obey all laws. *
12. Ride only in designated areas. *
13. Encourage collaboration across user groups. *
14. Provide and promote safety education. *
15. Provide enforcement of trail ethics and rules. *

**Branding and Delivery (How to deliver the message?)**
1. WWW. **
2. Trail head signage. *
3. Points of interest on trails. *
4. Membership communications. *
5. Radio. **
6. Social events. *
7. VT welcome centers, tri-fold flyers. *
8. Word of mouth. *
10. Newsletter to all user groups. *
11. Bumper stickers. *
12. TV. *
13. State and national events, fairs and expos. *
14. Newspapers and magazines. *
15. Social networking sites like facebook. *
17. Brochure distribution to members and membership venders.
18. Non traditional partners (Wal-Mart, Home Depot, etc).

Sustainability Indicators and Monitoring (What are the methods for measuring success?)

1. Trail counters. *
2. Survey trail users. **
3. Measure miles of private and public trail access. *
4. Measure membership.
5. Measure landowner participation, satisfaction and concerns. *
6. Measure events with cross user group participation.
7. Standardize feedback mechanisms for all user groups (recreation satisfaction survey).
   a. Complementary survey cards at trail head w/ drop box (low tech).
   b. On-line survey option with www link at trail head (high tech).
   c. Survey local businesses that interface with a cross section of user groups.
8. Survey user group members at the end of the season to get feedback.
Appendix C:
Trail-Use and Recreation Survey

Stewardship and Communication Work Group
Report to the
Vermont Trail Collaborative

Summary of
Vermont’s Universal Trail Ethic
Education Initiative

May – October 2010

Prepared by:
Brian D. Cotterill
Work Group Facilitator
October 7, 2010
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Letters to Encourage Participation

This letter was sent to Stewardship and Communication Work Group members to notify them the survey was ready to distribute. Work group members used pre-selected email distribution lists to administer the survey.

August 24, 2010
Greetings all,

The Stewardship and Communication Workgroups collaboratively developed survey is now ready. Thank you for offering to get this survey out to your email distribution list.

First, please take a moment to take the survey yourself by going to the following link.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TFCGWV5

Second, please help by getting this survey out to your members via your email distribution list. All background information is included within the body of the survey. You only need to draft a short email message indicating the importance of the survey and ask recipients to participate by September 10.

Feel free to include the following narrative in your message.

“The Vermont Trail Collaborative and the Vermont Trails & Greenways Council are sponsoring a survey with the purpose of generating stakeholder data, comments and input on the sustainability of Vermont’s trail resources. Currently, a Universal Trail Ethic that establishes a common set of behavior expectations across all trail user groups does not formally exist. This survey will inform a trail safety and education messaging campaign aimed at creating and branding a Universal Trail Ethic in Vermont.

Survey results will also serve as a mechanism to capture the voice of Vermonters with regard to “what is working” and “what could be better” when it comes to creating, maintaining and using public recreation resources in Vermont. Survey results may also be used in the revision of Vermont's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and Vermont’s Trail Plan, which is a component of SCORP.

For these reasons, it is really important we all provide our input by taking the survey.”

Finally, please aim to get this message out as soon as possible and no later than August 27. Copy me on your email and let me know about how many members you have asked to participate.

Once again, thanks for helping get the message out. Let me know if you have any questions.

Best.

Brian D. Cotterill
Stewardship and Communication Workgroup Facilitator
Vermont Trail Collaborative
This letter was sent to Vermont Trail Collaborative members to encourage their participation in both the survey and a Trail Summit.

Greetings Vermont Trail Collaborative members,

On behalf of the Stewardship and Communication Workgroup I would like to invite your participation.

Please take our survey and attend a Trail Summit meeting we have scheduled for Trail Collaborative members on September 9.

The Vermont Trail Collaborative and the Vermont Trails & Greenways Council are sponsoring Trail Summits and a survey with the purpose of generating stakeholder data; comments and input on the sustainability of Vermont’s trail resources. Currently, a Universal Trail Ethic that establishes a common set of behavior expectations across all trail user groups does not formally exist. Successful data collection through our Trail Summits and survey will inform a trail safety and education messaging campaign aimed at creating and branding a Universal Trail Ethic in Vermont.

Trail Summits and survey results will also serve as a mechanism to capture the voice of Vermonters with regard to “what is working” and “what could be better” when it comes to creating, maintaining and using public recreation resources in Vermont. Survey results may also be used in the revision of Vermont's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and Vermont's Trail Plan, which is a component of SCORP.

Here is how you can participate.

1. Follow this link and take our short survey before September 10.
   http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TFCGWV5

2. Contact me by August 27 if you would like to send this survey to your organizations membership, staff, board or other email distribution list.

3. Contact me to as soon as possible to RSVP for the Trail Summit meeting being held for Trail Collaborative members on September 9. (Meeting details will follow when your attendance is confirmed.)

Your participation is greatly appreciated. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Best,

Brian D. Cotterill
Stewardship and Communication Workgroup Facilitator
Vermont Trail Collaborative

This is a project of the Vermont Trail Collaborative’s Stewardship and Communication workgroup and is part of a two year long public process initiated by the Green Mountain National Forest, The University of Vermont’s Recreation and Tourism Data Center and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. The Trail Collaborative process is designed to improve management of trails and recreation in the Green Mountain National Forest and surrounding areas. The two-year process is anticipated to be complete in April 2011.

For more information on the Vermont Trail Collaborative and its three workgroups visit https://www.uvm.edu/~snrvtdc/?Page=vttrailcollaborative.html or contact Stewardship and Communication workgroup facilitator Brian Cotterill at bdcotterill@gmail.com.
Survey Sample

The following individuals and organizations provided assistance getting the survey out to email distribution lists and other channels to encourage public participation. Note, the method for selecting the survey sample was to draw on the contacts within the Trail Collaborative community. The goal was to get the survey out to as many Vermont recreationalists as possible regardless of trail user group. An effort was made to track the number of survey recipients. Totals reflect an understanding that some survey recipients likely received an invitation to participate more than once.

Umbrella Recreation and Trails Groups
• Vermont Outdoor Guide Association
• Vermont Trail Collaborative
• Vermont Trails and Greenways Council

Stewardship and Communication Work Group Member Email Distribution Lists
• FPR’s Recreation Trails Program grantees/applicants
• Green Mountain Club
• Local Motion
• Moosalamoo Association
• Northern Forest Canoe Trail
• Vermont All Terrain Sportsman Association
• Vermont Horse Council
• Vermont Off Highway Vehicle associations including (OHM, VORA, Green Mtn. Riders, Green Mtn. Plonklers, Cycle Conservation Club of Vermont)
• Vermont Snow Travelers Association

Vermont Trail Collaborative Non-Trails Organizations
• Center for Biological Diversity
• Conservation Law Foundation
• Natural Resource Conservation & Development
• Sierra Club
• Stowe Land Trust
• Vermont Natural Resource Council
• Wilderness Society

Other Stakeholders
• C R A G Vermont
• Catamount Trail Association
• Kingdom Trails
• Onion River Sports
• State and Federal Trail Funding Administrators
• The Obesity Initiative, Vt. Dept. of Health
• Vermont Conservation Commissioners
• Vermont Mountain Bike Association
• Vermont Recreation and Parks Association
Trail-Use and Recreation Survey

The following is a copy of the trail-use and recreation survey. The primary mode of delivery was electronic via Survey Monkey. Survey settings allowed only one survey response per recipient computer. The following paper copy survey was made available upon request.

2010 Vermont Trail Collaborative, Statewide Universal Trail Ethic Survey

Welcome and Overview

Thank you for your participation in this survey.

This is a project of the Vermont Trail Collaborative's Stewardship and Communication Work Group and is part of a two year long public process initiated by the Green Mountain National Forest, the University of Vermont and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Your participation is part of a public process designed to identify recreation needs and improve management of trails and recreation resources in Vermont's publicly accessible lands.

The Vermont Trail Collaborative and the Vermont Trails & Greenways Council are sponsoring this survey with the purpose of generating stakeholder data, comments and input on the sustainability of Vermont's trail resources. Currently, a Universal Trail Ethic that establishes a common set of behavior expectations across all trail user groups does not formally exist. A successful survey process will inform a trail safety and education messaging campaign aimed at creating and branding a Universal Trail Ethic in Vermont.

Survey results will also serve as a mechanism to capture the voice of Vermont's trail users with regards to “what is working” and “what could be better” when it comes to creating, maintaining and using public trails in Vermont. Survey results may be used in the revision of Vermont's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and Vermont's Trail Plan, which is a component of SCORP.

This survey will be delivered primarily through preselected email lists of participating organizations. If you are active in Vermont's trail community you may receive more than one invitation to participate. However, each respondent can reply only once.

We appreciate your contribution. This survey will be open until September 10, 2010. Your contribution will be kept completely confidential. If for any reason this survey is not working, to request paper copy surveys or if you have general questions on how to contribute to this effort contact Brian Cotterill at bdcotterill@gmail.com.

1. What forms of trail use do you participate in? (Check all that apply.)

- Alpine Ski
- Backcountry Ski
- Cross Country Ski
- Equestrian
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking
- Off Highway Vehicle
- Paddling
- Rock Climbing
- Snowmobile
- Snowshoe
- Urban, Bike/ Pedestrian
- Other

Other (please specify)
2. What is your preferred recreation trail activity? (Check only one.)

- Alpine Ski
- Backcountry Ski
- Cross Country Ski
- Equestrian
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking
- Off Highway Vehicle

Other (please specify)

3. Of the following trail resources what are you concerned about being at risk for the use and continued enjoyment of your preferred trail activity?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Low</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allowable Access</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict with Similar Uses</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict with Other Uses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landowner Relationships</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Protecting Private Property</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trail Conditions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trail Infrastructure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trail Supply</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Demand</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other (please specify)
4. If Vermont had a Universal Trail Ethic what key messages would it communicate?

(Your response to this question is important in the process of crafting a clear message. A Universal Trail Ethic would be an education tool with an established set of expected behaviors for all trail users.)

5. Once a Universal Trail Ethic has been established, what is the best way to reach and communicate the message to users?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Most Effective</th>
<th>Effective</th>
<th>Not Effective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chambers of Commerce</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gear Shops and Recreation Hubs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Campaigns</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-Trail Promotion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio Advertisement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism Centers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trailhead Kiosks</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV Advertisement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WWW</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Over the long term, what are the most important things to measure to gauge the success of a Universal Trail Ethic in Vermont?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Must Measure</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Don't Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration Across User Groups</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Health of Trails Organizations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency of Trail Closures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Resource Impact</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Trails</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Use Allowances</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction of Recreational Experience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails are Open and in Good Condition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User Conflict</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency of Allowed Use Violations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. How would a Universal Trail Ethic benefit you, your user group or organization?
8. What resources would you be willing to contribute to establish and maintain a Universal Trail Ethic for Vermont?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Willing and Able</th>
<th>Would Like to Know More</th>
<th>Unable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education and Outreach</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails Monitoring</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Contribution</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I am willing and able to help make this happen! Below I have listed how I am able to contribute and my individual and/or organizational contact information.

9. This initiative is important for Vermont, to me personally and/or my organization. I wish to be kept informed about the development of Vermont's Universal Trail Ethic and future opportunities to contribute via email.

Organization name, point person and email address.

Personal name and email address.

Thank you for taking our survey.

Please return the completed survey directly to the person that requested your input. Or mail it to the following address no later than September 10, 2010.

Vermont Trails & Greenways Council
Statewide Universal Trail Ethic Survey
c/o Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation
103 South Main Street, Building 10 South
Waterbury, VT 05671-0601
Question 1 Results

What forms of trail use do you participate in? (Check all that apply.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpine Ski</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backcountry Ski</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country Ski</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equestrian</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>73.1%</td>
<td>640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Biking</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
<td>409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Highway Vehicle</td>
<td>34.5%</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddling</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
<td>322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Climbing</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowshoe</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
<td>441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban, Bike/ Pedestrian</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 876
skipped question 5

What forms of trail use do you participate in? (Check all that apply.)
The following 146 unedited open responses were recorded for the question “What forms of trail use do you participate in?”.

- Trail running
- SCUBA diving
- Maintenance
- Jack Jumping
- Trail running
- Trail Running
- Trail Running. Please note - trail running is a unique and rapidly growing sport that requires certain types of trail. Trail running is typically not done on hiking trail since those trails are often too steep. Trail runner often use mountain biking trails because of their "flow" and gentle grades.
- Sledding
- Don't use the trails.... too busy working trying to pay taxes imposed for things like this. Lets get our highways fixed before the trails.... OK
- Access to backwoods fishing, backpacking
- Off highway motorcycle, which in VT is not legally recognized as an orv mode of travel
- Trail maintenance
- Dog sledding
- Horse back camping
- Alpine and backcountry snowboarding
- Snowboard, trail run
- Bird watching, plant identification, wildlife tracking & viewing, burying, historical sites
- Nature observation
- Cyclocross
- For access to hunting, fishing and trapping areas
- Hunting and fishing -- I use hiking trails to access backcountry wildlife habitat and remote trout ponds, especially in the GMNF. It's a shame neither activity made your survey given the popularity of both activities in Vermont.
- Cross country running
- I ride my bike to work on back roads (dirt roads) and part of the Cross Vermont Trail. I checked off Urban, Bike/Pedestrian because sometimes I ride my bike on bike paths (i.e. Burlington, Stowe).
- Mountain running
- Nude tree climbing
- Trail running and walking the dog
- Trail maintenance
- Dog powered sports (using non-motorized dog-powered equipment with wheels, such as bikes or carts, or without wheels--x-c skis or dog sleds)
- I have two teams of Siberian Husky Working Sled Dogs that I "Mush" ... :) ...
- Dog Sled driving
- Mushing...including sledding in winter and ATV, bikes and scooters for training the dogs in the fall.
- Dog Mushing
- Dog Sledding
- Caving
- "Snowboarding (resort and backcountry)
• Fly-fishing"
• Back road trails, rail trails
• Jeeping
• Mushing
• Dog sledding/ski-joring
• Rural road and rail trail biking
• Dog sledding
• Dog sledding /mushing
• Dog sledding
• Running
• Hunting
• Mushing
• Sled dog training
• Bike path with small children, camping in developed campgrounds and backpacking (camping in undeveloped remote areas.
• Telemark
• Hunting and winter trail maintenance
• Snowmobiling
• Mushing
• ATV use would be the best.
• ATV
• Access to hunting and fishing
• Botanizing, Birding, Rollerblading
• None
• Hunting and fishing
• Dual sport motorcycle
• General enjoyment!!!
• Off-road street legal motorcycles
• Hunting, fishing, trapping, photography, gold panning
• Trail running
• Off-road (road-legal) motorcycling.
• Dual sport motorcycle
• Dual sport motorcycle
• Motorcycle trail riding
• Dual Sport Motorcycling
• Off highway vehicle is a registered, inspected, insured dual sport motorcycle; other = trail running.
• Hunting, fishing
• "Backpacking - (Overnight hiking)
• Hiking I consider as day use walking”
• Walk downtown
• Registered off road motorcycle
• Off road motorcycle, Enduro
• Photography, wildlife viewing
• Hunting
• Dual sport biking!? 
• Running!
• Trail running
• Dual sport street legal motorcycles
• Snowboard
• Trail running
• Rural bicycle trails, rails to trails like the Chesapeake Canal, Kady RR, Champlain Bikeway, etc longer distance trails.
• Skijoring, canicross, trail running
• Motorcycling
• Horseback riding is my main interest. I don't do anywhere near the same amount of hiking or cc skiing.
• Running
• DOGSLEDDING
• ATV
• ATV riding
• ATV
• 4 wheel ATV
• Hunting
• VT registered motorcycle trail riding
• Handicap access routes for motorized vehicles used by the handicap. Scenic points of interest and deep in the forest quiet spots to observe natures best from these vehicles.
• Hunting access
• Mostly ATV's
• ATV
• Hunting,
• ATV trails
• ATV
• ATV
• ATV
• VASA
• For hiking to hunting areas
• Dog walking
• ATVING
• ATV
• ATV
• ATV
• ATV
• ATV
• ATV
• ATV
• ATV
• ATV
• ATV
• ATV
• ATV
• The use of an atv for me is the only way for me to enjoy the out doors, seeing that I’m disabled
• ATV
• Observation
• ATV riding
• By off highway vehicle I use an ATV.
• 4wheeler
• Rail trails are great
• ATV
• ATV Riding
• ATV
• Berry picking ! ;)

Appendix C - VTC Stewardship and Communication Work Group – October 2010 14
Hunting access
- Sitting quietly; meditating; drawing, painting, writing
- By OHV I am referring specifically to 4 wheeling / ATV's
- ATV
- 4 wheeling
- Family ATV
- ATV
- ATV riding
- Walking the trails with crampons in winter
- Long-distance backpacking, orienteering (which sometimes involves trails and other times does not)
- Trials and enduro type motorcycling
- ATV Riding
- Hunting and fishing
- ATV/UTV
- Fishing, hunting
- Dirt Bike
- Jeep/On Road registered vehicle on class 4 roads
- ATV-Jeep
- ATV riding
- ATV
- Off road motorcycling
- Snowboarding
- 4 wheeling
## Question 2 Results

### What is your preferred recreation trail activity? (Check only one.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpine Ski</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backcountry Ski</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country Ski</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equestrian</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>144</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mountain Biking</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Highway Vehicle</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddling</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Climbing</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowshoe</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban, Bike/ Pedestrian</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 818
skipped question 63

The following 100 unedited open responses were recorded for the question “What is your preferred recreation trail activity?”.

- Trail Running
- Trail Running.
• Sledding
  • I like most of the above minus the rock climbing...but again no time to do these things. WHY ?. Too busy working to pay taxes imposed for these things. New Highways, to start with, please. Don't care for any of this one world, one style or universal mode either.
• access to backwoods fishing, backpacking
• This question should have been organized by seasons -- the results will be misleading the way this is set up as the concerns are considerably different for seasonal trail resources.
• Dog Sledding
• Bird watching, plant identification, wildlife tracking & viewing, burying, historical sites
• Hunting/fishing
• Running
• Dog-powered sports
• Sled Dogs/Mushing
• Dog sled driving
• ALL as I am very ADD!
• That's Impossible to choose only one as they occur in different seasons and I like them al
• Mushing
• Dog Mushing
• Dog Sledding
• Only 1!?
• Jeeping
• Mushing
• Dog sledding
• Dog Sledding
• Dog sledding
• Mushing
• Telemark
• Snowmobiling
• Mushing
• ATV use would be the best.
• No time for recreation
• Dual sport motorcycle
• OHV applies as summer activity. Preferred winter activity would be snowshoe.
• In the winter, skiing is my favorite activity. In the summer, hiking. Hard to choose one when we have such different seasons.
• Off-road street legal motorcycles
• Hunting fishing gold panning
• Trail running
• Off-road motorcycling is my utmost concern as we get classified with ATV's. I think ATV use should be allowed, we just need to make sure the few bad apples don't spoil it for all of us and everyone should be registered and belong to a club.
• Dual sport motorcycle
• Dual sport motorcycle
• Hard question 2 favorites one winter one summer alpine ski and off highway vehicle
• Motorcycle trail riding
• Motorcycle trail riding
• OHV
• This is not really an accurate answer as in any day I'm likely to ride my horse, but I also walk my dog on local trails; and in any week I might participate in 3 or 4 of these activities.
• Same as above, walk downtown
• Trail running
• Registered off road motorcycle
• I am 63 years old an avid skier, hiker, canoe, and observed trials motorcycle rider
• Running
• Off road motorcycle / Enduro
• Off road motorcycle riding
• Motorcycling, trials or enduro type. Trail riding to competition trials.
• Dual sport
• This is too hard to pick just one!
• Rural, suburban and urban trails, and why do I need a preferred trail activity? I'm an equal opportunity believer.
• Motorcycling
• DOGSLEDDING
• Off highway motorcycle
• Backcountry and cross-country skiing are close behind.
• ATV riding
• ATV
• ATV riding
• ATV
• ATV
• 4 wheel ATV
• VT registered motorcycle trail riding
• Due to handicap limited access due to restrictions and use sometimes prevent true enjoyment of the public areas set aside for this use. Remember a large number of people are turning
• ATV
• ATV
• ATV TRAILS
• ATV
• ATV
• ATV
• ATV Trail Riding
• ATVING
• But we enjoy all of them!
• ATV
• ATV
• ATV
• ATV Riding
• ATV
• ATV
• Trail Riding
• ATV
• ATV
• Being able to go hunting, fishing backcountry lakes and ponds
• ATV riding
• ATV
• ATV
• ATV
• Followed by summer day hikes.
• ATV
• ATV
• ATV riding
• This is really a tie with hiking/backpacking and backcountry skiing
• ATV Riding
• ATV/UTV
• There is no official off road access in VT like in NH.
• Dirt Bike
• Off highway vehicle is a street legal vehicle created for extended articulation for climbing rocky terrain. NOT tearing up mud!
• ATV riding
• ATV
• Off road motorcycling
## Question 3 Results

**Of the following trail resources what are you concerned about being at risk for the use and continued enjoyment of your preferred trail activity?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allowable Access</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conflict with Similar Uses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landowner Relationships</td>
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<td>249</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>833</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>325</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protecting Private Property</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trail Conditions</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>340</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trail Infrastructure</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>812</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trail Supply</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Demand</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question: 871

 skipped question: 10
The following 79 unedited open responses were recorded for the question “Of the following trail resources what are you concerned about being at risk for the use and continued enjoyment of your preferred trail activity?”.

- Trespass of motorized vehicles on trails not designated for their use.
- Available funding for trail maintenance 2) conflict among user groups how funding is distributed to support each type of trail activity
- There is increasing demand, risk of private landowners shutting down access and not enough new trail being built on public land.
- The trails are fine as they are. This is a toehold to grab surrounding lands.
- I am very concerned about the use of trails by ATVs, bicycles
- What does "Allowable Access" mean as used here?
- Lack of legal standing for off-road motorcycles
- Protecting Private Property is a little unclear. I mark this one low because I interpreted this to mean private property owners right to keep people off. I would mark it high if high if it means to respect their land as we use the trails on it.
- The town in which I live (Underhill) has a small group of recreational trail users that have severely tarnished the reputation of all trail users by developing trails on and abutting private property in direct defiance of the wishes of affected landowners. The most extreme situation in Underhill to date is a public road (New Road) that has been in consistent public use since the late 1800s which the Town has chosen to reclassify into a legal trail after years of ignoring resident property owners wishes for basic road maintenance and despite the sever impact this reduced accessibility will have on the abutting private property owners use and enjoyment of their land.
- This question makes no sense!
- Motorized vs. non-motorized
- Land owner liability for trail use
- NO extra fees and special charges levied on us. we already bought the state and federal lands and don’t need to be taxed to park and use trails on public lands to pay for this.
- "High -- Safety at trailheads. Parked vehicles are routinely broken into at many trailheads, and some remote trailheads, like the Silver Lake (Addison Co.) parking lot, are sometimes frequented by some pretty unsavory characters that go there to ""party"" and otherwise hang out. (I wouldn't let my daughter hike at Silver Lake without a male companion).
- Medium -- Unrestrained pets. Many easily accessible trails and much of the Long Trail has turned into a dog park."
- Location of parking and signage for trailhead.
- It would be helpful to know paddlers rights to Camping on riverbanks when solo camping on long trips?
- Didn’t/t really understand that question????
- The question is worded very poorly. Answers should be very concerned, somewhat concerned, not concerned and question is ambiguous.
- Enforcement of rules and laws
- Vermont has a great resource for off road vehicle enthusiasts (in my case jeeping), which would be a shame to take away from the great community of users. The majority of these users are mindful of other trail users, and respectful of the trails and their condition. Unfortunately, there are a few bad apples that give the whole lot a bad name. I think we as Vermonter can band together and create a strong sense of pride and respect for the trails that we love to use in order to keep them open to the public without destroying the very thing we love, the very trails we use and these spectacular outdoor resources.
• Unmaintained utility advertised trail networks i.e. Somerset /Deerfield area
• Trails being lost to commercial development is an important issue - local support for/commitment to trails and the outdoors is necessary.
• Motorized vehicles on public trails present a potential problem to all equestrians, as well as pedestrians, snow shoe and ski travelers, etc. Snowmobilers are not a problem for equestrian use because riders do not use trails in the winter time.
• Dog access or dog-friendly areas, a well-exercised dog is a well behaved one. I love my dog and enjoy sharing the wilds of Vermont with her, my family and friends.
• Other uses: mechanical: i.e. off road vehicles
• Trail cost. Needs to be affordable for all interested users
• Legal trail usage and trail sharing breeds good trail maintenance.
• Resource degradation caused by ATVs and other motorized vehicular access.
• I don't know what your terms mean. If I did, they might be important to me.
• Availability of trails for equines. The State of VT is very unfriendly towards equine enthusiasts. There are no public horse trails in the State and only two in the Green Mt. National Forest that go nowhere.
• (A note: this question is strangely worded. It's a bit lengthy and indirect...just trying to help. I'm not sure that it even asks for a "severity rating", yet that is what is provided as a response option.) I'm responding as 'high' meaning that I am concerned that this aspect is in jeopardy.
• Better to have less high quality trails than too many crazy trails unmanaged!
• Trails probably shouldn't impact other uses. And erosion should be managed on trails.
• I don't understand how to respond to "Protecting Private Property" I think there is a medium risk that too many users and/or irresponsible users could jeopardize the willingness of private landowners to host public access trails.
• Intolerance / discrimination among non-motorized and snowmobiles against other motorized trail users
• ATVs and other motorized vehicles - which don't integrate well with the natural resource protection and quiet use and enjoyment of property - is a very serious concern of mine.
• This question is really confusing
• Noise pollution from snow mobiles is really bad
• It is due to the lack of legal available off-road trail opportunities that we have all the problems. By opening up more legal riding opportunities we will have less issues with private landowners and less renegade trails that effects the environment.
• I worry that climate change shorten the season for cross-country skiing
• Snowmobile and ATV use of trails designed for non-motorized use and town roads.
• Damage to town roads from traffic
• Illegal OHV incursions.
• I am adamantly opposed to imposing/allowing motorized use on currently non-motorized trails. I am also opposed to imposing snowmobiles in the proximity of homes as is the case along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail.
• Firm believer that mountain bikes and motorized stuff be very strictly controlled so that quiet traditional uses are protected
• The continued degradation of hiking trails and Class 4 roads by ATV use.
• Including equestrian use
• Smelly, noisy motorized uses vs. quiet nature based uses cannot co-exist. the very nature of one is disruptive to the other. no-octane trails and waterways must be protected.
• That is a really poorly worded question. I have a college degree and I work in a school and I had to read the question more than once to understand what the heck you were trying to get at.
• ATV's chewing up Trails
• Does protecting private property mean the same as protection from defacement/trash/people messing up the place? Trash, unauthorized fires, unauthorized camping; these are issues, as well.
• I don't know what "trail supply" means.
• Equestrian trails are few and far between. Many of the ones available are not loops and are difficult to access.
• There is an extreme need for off highway motorcycles to set up and maintain a trail system in VT public lands. Other states allow this and it helps regulate and illuminate illegal trail use.
• This question is awkwardly stated. I think I get it, but I'm not sure.
• We all pay taxes on this event and should be able to use them for all activities.
• Adequate parking for horse trailers
• Handicap vehicle access trails that really let one enter into the forest areas verses skirting the edge. Special permitted handicap vehicle access with trained knowledge of trail use.
• Everyone should be able to share the trails - it works everywhere else!!!!
• Lots of people that LEGALLY ride atv's on trail systems maintain them to keep them pleasurable for all others to use as well.
• I don't believe that all the items on your list constitute Resources. Very difficult to clearly answer whatever it is you're driving at.
• Even though I am a taxpayer to both the state of Vermont and to the Government, that my rights as a taxpayer and citizen are being denied the use of state and government land for ATVing. There should be a complete trail system from state to state (north to south and east to west with a crossing of the two.
• I'm not sure about the private property element. Restricting access could be an issue if too great a percentage becomes private without access.
• Discrimination of and against motorized trail users by most all other user groups and the state parks and recreations department itself.
• Need more ATV trails.
• I'm always concerned about protecting all the above at all times. I do not see where a "risk" of our environment will be affected. I believe risk to be and important and strong word to be used here.
• "when I was 16 my dad took me hunting and we would walk the old logging roads all over VT and ma.
• Many people used these trails that are good for ATV and snowmobiles, I am 51 years old now and cant walk with out the use of my prosthetic leg. these old roads have been there for 100's of years and will be there for many more, People complain about ATV's but they don't complain about small jeeps digging up all the trails.
• I have a permit to use my atv on trails in ma and these trails have been used buy atv's since atv were first sold and these trails are still in very good condition//// they keep the trucks and jeeps out with a gate"
• I have had my personal property rights taken advantage of by over zealous efforts by combined forestry and trail organizations. they claim they want to 'work with you' and then just bulldoze ahead with their plans. it is a good thing they are volunteers or work for the government, or they would be miserable failures in the real working world.
• I ride where there are horse trails and we all get along fine.
• Multi use trails would not be an issue if people would act responsibly in all aspects of trail use.
• It is maddening how activities by the sour (aka stupid) few can ruin trail use for the responsible many.
• Image and reputation of those that respect the rules / laws.
• ATV and UTV's are perceived as troublesome by the general public, most of whom have never been out on a trail. Public relations needs to be stepped up, and the public needs a better understanding of what proper management and enforcement of rules does to enhance trail activity for all trail users.
• Non-motorized uses are excluding opportunities for motorized uses in the summer, which is not acceptable for sustaining diversity going forward.
• I would like trail access like every one else has so I can ride my ATV.
• ATV's should have the use of state lands just as everyone else!!!!!!
• EDUCATION: iNSURING THAT TRAIL USERS ARE RESPECTFUL OF THE PRIVILAGES THEY NOW ENJOY AND WISH TO PRESERVE. eOMMON SENSE, COURTESY, AND RESPECT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY SHOULD RULE THE DAY.
• Environmental groups that want NOONE using national parks for anything. Witness Yellowstone park that limit motorized vehicles or the Silvio-Conte preserve that wants to stop snowmobiling and any wheeled vehicle use, or hunting.
• Very concerned about environmental groups buying land and closing snowmobile trails.
Question 4 Results

If Vermont had a Universal Trail Ethic what key messages would it communicate? (Your response to this question is important in the process of crafting a clear message. A Universal Trail Ethic would be an education tool with an established set of expected behaviors for all trail users.)

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The following is a distillation of trends and frequencies from the 725 open responses that were recorded for the question “If Vermont had a Universal Trail Ethic what key messages would it communicate?” A full copy of respondent comments is available upon request via an Excel spreadsheet.

330 Responses
- Share/ respect the trail and respect other users, leave the trail better than you found it.
214 Responses
- LNT on natural resources, historic structures and wildlife.
172 Responses
- Respect public and private property.
118 Responses
- Pack out your trash.
73 Responses
- Stay on marked trails & within trail boundaries. (Do not alter trail).
64 Responses
- Message related to establishing who has right of way.
63 Responses
- Info on how to volunteer, and take care of the trail.
52 Responses
- Recreate responsibly, plan ahead, be safe and have fun.
50 Responses
- Message indicating allowed uses.
46 Responses
- Consider trail conditions first and stay off wet trails.
41 Responses
- Follow all state and federal rules & laws.
24 Responses
- Be prepared with food, water, and first aid.
18 Responses
- Info on how to contribute financially to a trail-specific maintenance fund.
## Question 5 Results

**Once a Universal Trail Ethic has been established, what is the best way to reach and communicate the message to users?**

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*answered question 868
skipped question 13*

The following 151 unedited open responses were recorded for the question “Once a Universal Trail Ethic has been established, what is the best way to reach and communicate the message to users?”:

- Law enforcement where applicable.
- Magazines
- Target groups and clubs.
- Maps and guidebooks
- Perhaps patches, bumper stickers, clothing, tattoo’s (just kidding)
• The effectiveness of any campaign seems to be more about execution of the campaign and target audience rather than the medium.
• Trailhead Kiosks and MAPS (make some maps... sell some maps to fund more trail building), put the IMBA rules of the trail and VMBA contact info (for donations...to build more trail). Educate people in a positive way by encouraging them to ride and also informing them of WHY trails exist and how they can help by donating their time and some $$$.
• E-news, face book, social media.
• Event demos open to the public, with TV promotion prior to event.
• Local Parks and Recreation Departments and School Districts
• Hopefully, if any common sense is left out there, Universal Trail Ethic will crawl back into the dusty archives.
• Social Media, blogs, video. all above are a waste of time/energy
• Statute
• Maps from ranger stations, the state, and shops. Also nice posters, flyers or cards for Motels, B&B's and Inns so visitors know what the expectations are.
• Personal contact with users on the trails.
• Peer pressure from fellow trail users along with education
• Ranger district buildings, public offices, Vermont Dept. of Tourism
• The ones who really need ethics lessons are the "lone wolf/bad apple" types. Enforcement and peer/community pressure is the only effective means
• Developing statewide chapter memberships to develop local accountability and reporting between users:)
• Lodging locations - where out of state / area users may overnight and from where they plan their days.
• MAPS which define uses of trails, possibly with symbols or colors
• Through regional clubs
• The medium of communication plays a small role in its enactment, if the UTE is well thought out and successful, through deployment and sustainability it will be communicated to users, if it embodies ideas that are not reasonable it will be entirely ineffective...as most state and federal plans are.
• Campsites, cafes, rental properties, real estate offices, property management offices
• Social networks maybe?
• Enforcement on the trail, whether it be by caretakers or state/federal employees.
• "Major trail organizations, land management agencies, programs, etc.
• Events, conferences, word of mouth... all different ways, especially including all of the above would help"
• Magazines, newspapers.
• A user-ready unit suitable for inclusion in a school program would help. This should ideally designed to take up less than one hour time, be informative (not preachy), and possibly at a couple of levels so that it could be repeated -- e.g. grade 3 and grade 6.
• Human personal ambassadors of ethics
• Word of mouth and use of caretakers at high-risk spots.
• Through promoting Like-Minded adventure activities being organized and sponsored by local companies and governmental agencies. volunteers organizing these "Events"
• If membership campaigns include targeting actual user groups, clubs etc.. then most effective
• What is WWW????????????
• User members web pages; word of mouth
• Websites
• Ambassadors on the trails: ridge-runners, patrollers, caretakers, etc...
• Clothing, season pass stickers, and mail
• Information at the trails heads and on the trail is a great reminder!
• Need to reach the people who will be using these trails, which are often not the tourists. So if you can catch the users just before they use the trails (trailhead, gear shops), then they might remember the message.
• I was hesitant to select "Most Effective" on Membership Campaigns because I don't want to see some pricey membership fees to accompany it, but I do believe to could reach many of the trail users.
• All persons using trails must be a member or invited guest. Again why should motorized sports be only ones to pay and maintain.
• Maps, guide books, posters
• Trail map
• Landowner /trail user groups
• Email campaign as this survey was advertised.
• Recreation groups such as Vt. Horse Council, ATV and Snowmobile clubs.
• Associations e.g. MAMBA (the Montpelier area mountain bikers assoc.)
• Local clubs
• Engage established user groups that are organized. The earlier they are engaged the better because they will feel a sense of ownership.
• Local clubs.
• Everywhere [possible...my guess is that folks who most often use the trails might be the most respectful...so need to really hit the one time or infrequent users.
• Having up to date trail conditions posted on the web for users to refer to prior to embarking conjoined with adequate signage at trailheads is key. TV and Radio?? Haven't seen it in use for my sports, but I know VAST uses it.
• Direct mail / communication with membership.
• Phone Application
• At state fairs and places where people gather like polling places
• Use social media (facebook, twitter, etc.) with trails groups to do promotion.
• Snowmobilers can be reached via their publication -- the VAST News.
• VAST website along with local club websites
• User group organizations - national and local clubs, rider groups. For example the Kingdom trails association.
• All these can help...but constant, consistent law enforcement is essential. A method of issuing & keeping track of educational "warnings" and then increasing penalties for infractions so that "bad apples" are locked out after incurring "points" ... and DWI charges should carry over to all vehicle uses and from every state (especially neighboring states) " A send us your good tourist with $ ..& ...keep your idiots home! would be a welcomed approach.
• User Group leaders as spokes people. Mt Bike clubs, Hiking clubs etc. (Recreation Hubs from above??)
• Specific user groups.
• I'm viewing "recreational hub" as being Volunteer clubs, non-profits, or for pro-fits that promote a recreation and create/maintain trails. Thus using their newsletters, fundraisers, websites, literature etc.
• LAW ENFORCEMENT
• Articles in Newspapers
• Organizational support by ANR/ FPR and user groups such as the Catamount Trail, Northern Forest Canoe Trail, and recreational publications such as Vt Sports Today.
• make it illegal to break trees, vandalize or leave trash. Say that in a trailhead kiosk.
• Peer pressure
• Membership campaigns through other membership organizations - partnerships.
• Trail heads most of all!
• Some of these ideas are NOT good ideas and could harm trail usage. Landowners do not want universal advertisement of trails and in this area, 90% of the trails are on private property. A few are on state or town land/roads and those would be OK.
• On-Trail Education guided by knowledgeable, seasoned, and permanent staff (and not from VYCC inexperienced and uneducated seasonal staff)
• Work with non-profit organizations like GMC, VAST, CTA and with other natural resource management agencies like the Forest Service.
• Through educators of all types--public schools, private schools, outdoor guides, children's camps, college and university outing clubs. Create some curriculum for teachers (LNT has done this to some extent)
• Most current organized users are associated to some organization which can be found on the WWW. Sending notice to those sites or contacting them directly would likely be most effective.
• Conservation District
• need to figure out what "group(s)" don't behave well and choose method of communication accordingly
• Through user groups, clubs and organizations (is this what is meant by membership campaigns?) and also certain related events. Radio and TV ads seem expensive and would not necessarily reach the right people.
• I suggest employing all the tools to get the word out, and I know paid media is expensive. It is also the most effective, so as and how possible, I suggest spreading the word that way.
• "Social networks are the wave of the info spreading!!!!!!
• Facebook, twitter, MySpace, forums etc...
• I think a variety of methods will have the most impact, although most costly. Seeing it in the new, newspaper or radio will have the biggest impact to the population that is not currently aware of the issues like the trial period allowing the ATV's up in the NE Kingdom over a very small section of state land. Most wouldn't be aware except for it being in the local news.
• Why does VPR/Eye on the Sky give an outdoor activity forecast during the spring mud season when the trails are closed? great chance for education!!!
• I'm not sure you want to advertise as widely as say radio and TV inasmuch as how many people do you want traffickking the trails before the trails are overused and neighbors unhappy. Perhaps a study could be done as to how much traffic such trails can endure and if more traffic were projected, how the detrimental effects could be minimized (i.e., taking turns, limited numbers of uses per year, etc).
• Most clubs are very responsible, but the 2% that cause most of the damage do not belong to clubs.
• Facebook or other social networks
• Need to use any and all sources at our disposal
• Professional group gatherings. Face to face time will be needed so that people can look each other in the eye and see the comprehension and buy-in from other outdoor professionals.
• "Many of our local schools bring kids hiking and skiing. Working with those schools and teachers
• Could be a good long-term access point."
• Access stewards
• Users educating other users
• Minimize any signage on our trail system. It detracts and is a target for vandalism.
• Partner organization newsletters and websites.
• Peer pressure!
• Laws and penalties that are enforced to stop destruction of scenic areas.
• "Association heads to be passed down to local club boards.
• Local law enforcement/Environmental Police.
• Schools (the children are our future)."
• Local newspapers
• communicate with IMBA. NEMBA, ...
• Bike patrollers... giving directions, riding tips and... ethic advice.
• Making sure that people know the laws. Driver education and other courses for motor vehicle licenses are important venues. Horses have the right of way on roads but that doesn't prevent people from harassing riders.
• Direct E-mail to affiliated organizations and members
• Trail user education.
• #1 -- Concerted effort through all trail users' organizations. Ask organizations to educate membership and pledge to honor and ratify Trail Ethic.
• Elementary and High Schools. Recreation groups, conservation commissions in towns.
• Word of mouth, community events celebrating trail openings with get out the trail maps and lets join others.
• Brochures for new club members or at trailheads.
• Also try advertising through at clubs and organizations
• Take a look at the state of New Hampshire and see how they are sharing resource and how they promote it.
• Google is the best source. When I want to hike/ ride, I search for 'trail' and the 'city, state' I am going to.
• Clubs should play a very important part in getting the word out.
• Booklet per registration or club distribution.
• Additionally there should be a code of ethics such as a neighborhood trail watch where all of us that enjoy the usage of the trails should look out and maintain the use and benefits of the trails. The neighborhood watch has worked in residential neighborhoods and I feel it could work if we all banded together as one on the trails.
• I'm not certain which methods would be most effective. But promoting good stewardship would be great, nature's beauty deserves our respect.
• Add to each year at schools to educate. Needn't be a full curriculum, but should add to kids awareness so they will be aware when they are older.
• Through the annual VT. F&W almanac
• Magazine's would help get the word out
• Club member newsletters
• Trails patrols and enforcement, this state needs more employment any way right? And include snowmobile, ATV, mountain biking, and ski clubs and others in the process by offering volunteer opportunities for them to participate in along with normal trail crews, this might also foster closer relations with different clubs to have more multiple use areas and trails for all to use.
• Verbiage in TMA's
• Conservation Commissions
• Through local clubs and statewide sport organizations = most effective
• Communication needs to be personal and at the user level, at clubs and trail functions.
• User-to-user discussion.
• Enforcing the trail ethic by policing each other.
• You've got to consider where you're audience is in order to hit them with the message. Most recreationalists purchase gear and go to local shops but, the best way to get to them is right where they are enjoying the sport or through their social circles & education centers.
• Bumper stickers, and whatever you can stick on a horse
• E-News letters to all off road organizations.
• School assembly to get the ideas out to the future users and it will also transfer home to family activities.
• Telling the local clubs to pass on to its members
• We do not own the land we ride on,
• A UNIVERSAL ETHICS CARD SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION BY EACH USER GROUP. THE USER GROUP ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUBMITTING AN ANNUAL REPORT INDICATING HOW THEY IMPLEMENTED AWARENESS.
• Through the various clubs who use the trails - their e-mail or newsletter.
Question 6 Results

Over the long term, what are the most important things to measure to gauge the success of a Universal Trail Ethic in Vermont?

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answered question 863
skipped question 18

The following 50 unedited open responses were recorded for the question “Over the long term, what are the most important things to measure to gauge the success of a Universal Trail Ethic in Vermont?”:

- Knowledge of the implemented Universal Trail Ethic.
- Number of potential and actual trail users from all the user groups
- "New Use Allowances - what do you mean?"
• How could you measure violations?
• Please this is getting rhetorical. Too many loop holes here, guys/gals. I don't like the implications of any of your issues above. Forget this, just let a few things alone.
• Implementation of the aforementioned training and certification programs/ tracking the numbers of residents and non-residents who have completed the certification
• Fulfill the ideal of equal access, statutory standing and access to public funding.
• Developing a general process (and perhaps a more formal process when specific organizations receive access opportunities) in which good trail users strive to remedy problems created by irresponsible trail users, especially as it relates to private property.
• Land owner satisfaction and renewal of agreements
• "That ALL types of trails exist in VT, from wilderness hiking to dirt bike/atv trails
• Our trail system represents the wide array of users and desires"
• Mail backs
• Impact on insurance premiums for recreational participation.
• Safety
• Financial Health of Trails Organizations sounds like stimulus pork
• Overall use
• Freq. of trail closures is important but why they were closed is maybe more important.
• Additional cost to volunteer non-profit clubs to adhere to new ethic.
• Outreach numbers: how many educational programs, flyers, etc. are done by organizations, the state, etc.
• Please....no new trail from Gore Man to Bluff Mtn. Preserve the last remaining high ridge in Vermont. It's loaded with moose and bears. Leave at least one Vermont area untraversed by trails.
• STATE & FEDERAL FUNDING to staff "trails" is the most important thing to measure in gauging the success of a Universal Trail Ethic...
• Number of volunteer hours donated for trail maintenance.
• Name/Concept Recognition of the Trail Ethic, whatever its final name/slogan
• Trail closures are difficult to enforce (signage doesn't really work, and they get neglected - left up too long, not put up in the first place) - the user needs to make the decision for themselves, which requires the user to be educated and respect when it is not a good time to ride on a trail. This is likely the most difficult part.
• I think collaboration is important, but I'm not sure measuring it would make a lot of different - or how that would be possible. I think you'll see the result in avoided user conflict, appropriate (non violation) uses of the land etc.
• Accountability is key
• All stakeholders involved which includes landowners and town planners.
• We should minimize prohibited uses to make resource available to maximum number of people.
• If it pleases everyone in the state, it isn't doing squat.
• Testimony from individuals about whether they have done anything different, learned anything, seen others behave differently, or generally value the UTE...versus, say being annoyed by something that they do not think is meaningful
• To go along with "frequency of trail closures" - why was a particular trail closed?
• Accidents and injuries
• Everything you list here seems important and relevant and worth benchmarking.
• Not just measure closure, but why closed? Then solve the problem. Was it erosion or was it people defacing the property? Was it trash? Camping? Fires?
• knowledge survey of trail users
• I don't think there's any point in measuring, because I don't think there's ultimately any benefit to this. People already know how to behave; a pamphlet isn't going to make a difference, other than costing somebody some money to produce.
• I THINK IF YOU SENT A SURVEY OUT TO THE TRAIL USE CLUBS ONCE A YEAR AND ASKED THEM WHAT THERE CONCERNS ARE TO DATE THAT WOULD PAINT A PRETTY GOOD PICTURE.
• Monitoring complaints.
• Poor' organizations can be effective, 'rich' ones can have too big a presence.
• We don't need new trails - just access to existing ones - old roads, logging roads, etc crisscross this state and make great hiking and biking trails.
• Personal responsibility of trail users.
• Handicap use being measured once trails were designed and advertised at senior centers and elsewhere.
• ATV issue must be resolved. Right now it's an outlaw sport. VASA is trying to change this by using VAST model which doesn't strictly apply. Separate motorized and non-motorized sports.
• How about overall total usage impacts? Effects of opening up user groups on total participation - this impacts local economy
• Anecdotal evidence funneled through statewide organizations by local clubs is, by far, the best measurement of these issues. Each recreational discipline seems more capable of self-measurement than some sort of universal measurement would be.
• It is my experience that measuring user feedback does not always represent what is happening on the trail those who take the time or tend to give feedback have had a bad experience or created one for themselves.
• Enforcement of pertaining to trail usage and law enforcement presence
• Supervision or...general census across groups should be done quarterly or bi-annual.
• It's simple. If you're in violation of the use of the trails, same as your license. It's suspended and the term is based on the severity of the offense. Up to and including permanent revocation.
• The universal trail ethic will sponsor more participation and use. More use will help generate tourism $$'s for the local towns and the state. The best gage of success is to monitor the number of users.
• "Loss/Gain of trail access on private property.
• Loss/Gain of trail access on public property."
• By letting everyone know the true facts and the people involved weren't maybe following all rules, otherwise it looks like the clubs or State isn't promoting safety. It's usually the victims who weren't doing everything correctly.
Question 7 Results

The following 561 unedited open responses were recorded for the question “How would a Universal Trail Ethic benefit you, your user group or organization?”:

- It would place responsibility on all trail user groups to educate participants in their sport on the trail ethic.
- A Universal Trail Ethic would provide a common voice for trail managers and users. It would create efficiency amongst trail managers and it would resonate more clearly to the public through repetition. I encourage you to consider tailoring the message and punch line to something that is unique to Vermont and sticks with those that are intended to capture it.
- Improve trail conditions, and user safety and experiences.
- THIS MAY HELPING GAINING ACEESS TO NEW TRAILS
- I'd love to see a variety of individuals out using the trail systems. The more trails we have, the more people can be out enjoying them; the more people we have enjoying the trails, the more we get funding that can go into developing new trails. It's a great cycle that lends itself to a healthy community of people who value the land and our natural resources.
- We already have an outstanding trail ethic with the lion share of our users/landowners
- I would spend more time supporting local economies if there were more single-track open to bikes in the Green Mt Forest.
- Better reach to our club members, with a stronger message.
- The horse riders may actually help with trail maintenance & stay off muddy trails
- It would help to educate all users of a trail, and help trails be more "official"
- Since there are quite a number of different user groups in VT, including people who do not use trails at all, this would help both educate users across user groups about responsible trail use and it would provide a template for presentations to local government and townspeople when discussing trail issues. This would be especially helpful in mitigating user conflict and landowner concerns.
- Legitimize the use of mountain bikes on multi-use trails
- Not sure it would - we are awash in slogans. Behavior is what counts.
- I think it would help create a framework for creating access to new trails, as well as strengthen the private-public relationship of existing trail networks.
- Mountain biking has gained greater legitimacy, and we finally have legitimate and purpose built trails, but there is always tension among different users. Trying to create a feeling of unity, not differentiation, would go along way at this point.
- Reinforcing the message we try to get out to our users. Hearing it from another source drives it home.
- When there is a standard and it's unambiguous then conflicts are easily resolved (in theory)
• I think it would help resolve conflict between landowners and other users. For example, last week I was mountain biking on a designated mountain biking trail and came across horseback riders whose horses were startled and who began yelling at us to stop and hold still so the horses could see us. I think if we had a better understanding of who else is allowed to use the trail, we could have all have a bit more tolerance.

• I think it would benefit mountain bikers by both letting them know how to act and also if others were following the ethic or not would become more clear.

• A unified message about the stewardship responsibility has the potential to lead to trails that last longer per dollar invested relative to use. This would allow limited $ to be used more effectively.

• I think it would help to bring education to other trail users that we are all hear to have a good time. It can also help to show people that all forms of trail recreation can be done responsibly. I know many people still think that mountain biking is really bad for the trail erosion, but when done right it can be very sustainable. I believe this would help all users to gain more respect for other forms or trail recreation.

• Sharing the knowledge and information concerning location of trails and specific uses of the trail.

• As a skier and mountain biker I have too seasons to worry about. With Alpine skiing, most ski areas are in control and work with the state if on state property to keep things in control. Mountain biking on the other hand has a direct impact on the land and it's surroundings. Living and riding in the Stowe/Waterbury area, we see first hand how snowpack and melt can affect our trail systems as well as rain and rider traffic. Private land use has to be handled so delicately and trail building/sustainability are of huge importance. We need to prove that we can build good trails and maintain them without destroying anything.

• Hopefully would contribute to long-term availability and sustainability of trail access.

• I work with people with disabilities, it would be awesome to share the trail with those individuals and use the trail ethic as a way to teach them social and environmental skills.

• If more trails are brought up to international sustainable standards then the trails will need less maintenance, have a lower impact on ecosystems, have less user conflict and allow multiple user groups to coexist on the same trails.

• By providing fun and sustainable locations to ride and recreate it will reduce or eliminate the perceived conflict that is associated with mountain biking. This also would clarify to mountain bike user group that certain areas that are preserved for non-recreational use and why.

• Better access and increased networks would improve the quality of life for all Vermonters. It would also help bring in more tourist dollars, which would help many local communities.

• Because mountain bikers are sometimes viewed as "rogue", organizing our community behind a trail ethic would help remedy that misconception...and would help those mountain bikers who may not have the best trails ethics get with the program.

• Hard to answer this question w/out a current set of expectations, but if you included something in the UTE about supporting those who maintain the trails, it would be a great benefit to my organization. As a user, the UTE probably wouldn't benefit me much, since there are already common courtesies established on the same trails.

• It would create a common understanding of ethics to be used on the trail, when to yield the right of way, and when its ok to ride or not, proper trail behavior and use.

• Every one will speak the same language.

• More access for mountain bikes on GMNF land.
• More "sustainably" constructed trails. Less legacy trails (read: old logging road with a fall-line alignment.
• Less misunderstanding between user groups.
• 1) Gain recognition of the Rights of ALL Responsible Vermont Trail / Access Area Users to benefit from the natural beauty and resources of Vermont. 2) Help bring all the various groups together working toward a common goal, that we are all willing to support and fund
• Make it easier to obtain permission from private landowners for trail use.
• Combine resources of mountain bikers, skiers, hikers, snow machine users, ATVers, and horse people to promote the development of more trails and protection of existing trails.
• Many users access the mtn bike trail network and do not contribute.
• Many trail users are unaware of what is involved with proper building and maintenance of trails = Education is key"
• One voice
• "NONE AT ALL !!! WASTE OF TIME, EFFORT, MONEY"
• I think that being part of something statewide would make us seem more legitimate; and if people pick up on the universal trail ethic, it will minimize problems that we face.
• I wouldn't hike in places where bikers were.
• For most traditional outdoor recreationists, much of the appeal of the experience is the increasingly rare opportunity to be away from crowds of people. The urge to promote outdoor recreation as aggressively and widely as it has been for recent decades appears to have been without consideration for sustainability of the resources, or the quality of the experience itself. It’s a matter of valuing both the resources and the experiences for what they are worth in the long term.
• Hopefully would keep the trails open well maintained with as little as possible environmental impact, and still accommodate as many uses as possible.
• Would not likely have any tangible effect, based on history and current state of affairs
• So they would be there when I find the time to use them
• May change existing trail literature/ ethic communications
• Education of users, adopters, maintainers"
• Safety
• Not sure.
• I constantly deal with loose dogs on the trail. Some get into my team, sometime my dogs go and visit. I all cases most people like to blame me for their dogs behavior and in some cases report me. We are limited to where we can run our team, so we end up sharing the trails with many other users. An understanding of acceptable etiquette by all users can help eliminate any grey areas of right away and users conflict. With the dog issue I hope any ethics develop will include an understanding of the challenges us mushers face with running large numbers of dogs and the fact that dogs will be dogs. I am in support that we as mushers need to have well trained and behaved dogs that do not keep creating problems for other users, but this is my opinion only I do not speak for other mushers.
• A simple message would help all user groups "be on the same page" when discussing conflicts or impacts to the resource.
• To volunteer when I can
• Keeps them open and enjoyable for me
• Trail protection and hopefully more access
• Well cared for trails, knowing that the environment and landowners property was/is in good hands with people that care about them...
• Make it more clear to hikers that EVERYONE has the RIGHT to use trails, not just them.
• To insure we still have access to the trails in the future.
• Allow other trail users to provide a greater understanding of my preferred sport.
• I live on over 50 acres of land I purchased which has always been accessed by a small dirt road but a small group of unethical people have taken in upon themselves to legally reclassify a significant portion of my road frontage into a legal trail against the wishes of many negatively impacted landowners. I have already had numerous problems with various thefts of my personal and agricultural tools along with people disturbing my girlfriend and me by walking close to my home and have been forced into an expensive lawsuit to protect my property rights. If all trail users were educated in a universal trail ethic these problems never would have happened in the first place...
• Allow for multiple user groups where certain uses are excluded.
• It would educate.
• Establish guidelines on how to interact with other users. Help individuals from getting upset at uses they disagree with.
• The more proactive mountain bikers can be in organizing, maintaining and protecting the trails we do have, the more I hope it will lend to the creation of more trails and riding opportunities. We've been bringing a group of riders to Burke for 6 years and we LOVE the riding and trails.
• ATV/mountain bike conflicts over trail widening could assuage.
• Instead of using extensive resources protecting the hiking trails from ATVer's, snowmobilers, loggers, etc., the resources could be used to build and maintain better hiking trails.
• It would create a more enjoyable experience while enjoying the trails in which every way I personally want to use them, knowing that they are being maintained in an Eco friendly way.
• Help insure safe, consistent use and quality growth of trail systems in the long term.
• A Universal Trail Ethic (UTE) would be a great help to our organization because our efforts to foster respect for landowners, the environment and the trails often are not taken seriously because we are a small organization, so a UTE would give credibility to what we ask of our trail users. It would be a huge outreach and education tool.
• The biggest benefit would be raising awareness of how one person's activities impact the experiences of others. It's sort of like the Golden Rule, except that some people don't see the harm in what they do and wouldn't care if others did it too. They have to be made to care about others before any campaign of this type will work.
• It would assist with keeping the trails in good condition, limit abuse of the trails, whether that is r/t those that use trails in poor conditions, littering, etc.
• I run a B&B with many of our guests using the trails in our area, whether skiing at a resort, hiking, snowshoeing, or even taking a walk. These "attractions" are what brings guests to Vermont, and keeps us in business.
• "It would open a lot more land for limited use if people were not afraid that once they allow a trail anybody can go on it anytime with any form of transportation.
• Another thing that keeps landowners from allowing use is the fear that they are liable for accidents. I have been told that if a landowner allows people to recreate on their land, and doesn't deliberately set up a hazard, then they are free from liability. That law needs to become clear to people."
• Reduce conflict with landowners and diverse users, reduce the amount of maintenance needed and infrastructure that needs replacement. Leads to an understanding of the impacts each user causes and how much time, effort and money goes into reversing the adverse impacts by user group.
• Safer and more enjoyable experience for all.
• If a entity not directly owning the land or related to the organization steps into the picture and begins making requests and regulations in the belief that they are 'helping' and 'preserving', but truly are not even involved in the area or its community, this would present a negative impact to the trail structure and the overall experience. Our group would go to an unregulated’ area instead.
• Seems like a good idea. maybe better trail condition, compliance to and understanding of trail rules/expectations among different user groups.
• Recreation and the outdoors are one of the key reasons why I live in Vermont!
• Establish rights of all users
• Benefits everyone
• It would make my experiences more enjoyable and less aggravating. For example: I turkey hunt on Snake Mountain. Sometimes while hiking out late in the morning I'll encounter hikers on their way in, some of whom openly resent my presence, even though sportsmen funded the public acquisition of Snake Mountain and sportsmen pay the annual property tax (the VFWD uses funds generated by hunting license sales and excise taxes on hunters for the PILOT payments). I do not begrudge them for using the trails; why should they resent me?
• "Trail ethics can promote best practice, appropriate use, and help ensure overall good trail management.
• Improved recreational opportunity and enhanced livability for all users knowing there is mutual respect for one another and for the land/resources being used.
• I personally feel better knowing we are contributing to promoting personal responsibility and mutual respect."
• More sustainable trails, more trails.
• Pretty sure it will not...at least as I read between the lines. Sounds like the brainchild of some angry person (although that person on the outside seems easy-going, care-free...loves nature, yoga...and is on Prozac) not originally from VT who has too much time on their hands.
• Engaging people to be responsible so (more) trails can remain open and in good condition for use and having fun
• Working with the logging and land-owning community, I find that many users view loggers especially as enemy. Frequently no attempt was made to communicate with loggers. In some cases, foresters simply marked timber jobs with active trails -- in that case, the logger may not even have known that an active trail existed. In one case, when I asked a logger whether he had been informed by a State Forester that he was cutting across an active trail (listed in 50 Vermont Day Hikes), he said he had wondered what the strange colored blazes meant. I then consulted the forester, who said that the user group had never registered the presence of a trail on any State map. So a complex set of failures: failure of a volunteer organization to register a trail; failure of Forest & Parks people to look in such popular guides as "50 Day Hikes," and failure of the forest technicians to question a line of blazes (and relatively visible tread way) cutting across their plot. That was a few years ago, and maybe relationships have improved. The logger & the Forester were both well inclined toward hiking, but were never informed by the hiking club of existence of a trail.
• Raise awareness and mutual respect between different recreational users (hikers, bikers, etc).
• Help other user groups recognize mountain bikes are allowed the same trail use privileges as they are.
• Help maintain a viable resource
• It would allow Small private party groups to use unique resources.
• Provides a clear objective (goal) for all who use the trail to strive to attain. Meeting goal may or may not be possible, but as long as people are making the effort and care about the conditions for those who follow, I say great.
• Encourage more trails to be opened. Collaboration of maintenance. Also, as a landowner, I would like to know who is maintaining a trail across my land without my knowledge or permission.
• To promote rides and trips, maybe increase sales in the store
• I would hope that the Trail Ethic would benefit all users. I do not ride horses, nor own an ATV or snowmobile, but I think they have rights to accessible areas as much as my bike does. I don't however think those areas are always interchangeable. Some people only feel hikers should be allowed in most areas. From my experience, mountain bikers appreciated the limited access they have and therefore are very motivated to help keep it that way. If everyone had that attitude, I think more could be accomplished.
• I'm not sure. I would hope it would allow trail maintenance organizations to keep the trails safe, well marked and open especially in Wilderness areas, which is hard to do now.
• Hopefully lessen landowner complaints
• I think it would reduce the amount of conflict between user groups because of education of all parties involved. It won't eliminate conflict, because there will always be a select few that believe the trails belong to them and no body else.
• Exposure to the general public to become more engaged in outdoor adventures.
• Allows good relations with other users and brings all stakeholders together for workdays and fund raising/info events.
• Help keep trails open and FUN!
• Better trails, Better experience, respect for the land.
• A Universal Trail Ethic would allow trails to be in better shape through the following: if people don't use them in wet conditions, there will be less erosion; if trucks don't go on trails, there will be fewer ruts and better drainage; landowners could know that certain uses would occur on their land (e.g., hiking) but nothing more invasive (hunting, mountain biking, snowmobiling) without their permission. Hopefully it would keep trails cleaner. Limited liability laws, like in NH, would enable landowners to open more land.
• Increased ease and pleasure while using trails and (hopefully) will never see erosion issues, litter, etc. because of improper use.
• Well, because I'm on the trails with a team of Sled Dogs, I worry about snowmobilers that are going way too fast... Perhaps we could designate a trail loop, approximately 10 miles, for the sole purpose of using for Sled Dogs....
• "Better traffic flow for various speeds of recreational travel. Example walking, running, skiing, dog sledding, snowmobiling all on the same trail.
• Awareness of other users on the same trail."
• I honestly don't know based on the description above.
• Reduce conflicts, especially with motorized vehicles which get an inordinate amount of publicity (ATV's, motorcycles and snowmobiles)
• Education... as a tool
• It would establish a credo for long-term land use and trail preservation
• It would insure that the trail system remained open and for use for all users.
• One already exists. I’m not really sure why you are spending money on this. You can’t train people not to be jerks. If you try to train people how to act they revolt. Luckily most people enjoying outdoor rec are pretty cool.
• "Would avoid user-conflicts/trail closures for certain groups due to user conflicts
• Everyone would know the appropriate way to approach another user: i.e. a mountain biker would slow/stop and talk to an equestrian, downhill users have the right of way over uphill"
• As a musher there are so few trails for us in Vermont. Snow mobilers seem to think the VAST trails are for them and them alone. They use very high speeds, which puts a musher and their dogs at risk. There are virtually no trails for training with an ATV in the fall. That means me must train on dirt roads. Again we are at risk from cars. Mushers need a place to play too. We need trails that connect to each other around the state. We need to be able to train with distance as well.
• It would help people be on the same page use and respect wise.
• Shared financial clout; greater understanding and appreciation of the other users; unified group of volunteers to work on trails and trail issues
• Equestrians and ATV users would respect each other, sharing with other users how to be safe around horses...how to know if a horse is reacting to another user and what to do to help keep the rider and horse safe, and the other users.
• Vermont stands out for its natural beauty and the commitment its residents put forth to care for it. It is absolutely a privilege to have access to trails that run on private land and be able to utilize those trails for a variety of recreational purposes. However, by not being mindful of our impact on nature and the potential long-term damage we are creating by not utilizing it properly, we are destroying the essence of Vermont and what it means to be a Vermonter (or for non-residents, being vacationers with access to the clean, green, beauty Vermont has to offer). A Universal Trail Ethic is imperative to ensure all users of Vermont trails respect what they currently have access to so as to maintain the natural beauty of the state and protect it from further unnecessary damage.
• Build a shared value of caring for a public resource
• It would allow us to communicate to our membership a universally accepted code of use and behavior, which we expect those members to follow. It would also allow our members to educate others on the ethic.
• It would help make the riding more even across the board for all users, will help everyone to respect one another.
• Biggest issue is relationship between private landowners, Kingdom Trails and out-of-town bikers. Bikers don't understand how to treat the trail system because they don't understand that someone is allowing them to use their private land, so they mistreat the land. If the land is continually mistreated, landowners will not grant access and the system fails.
• Hopefully, less rude users, and better trail conditions, and a better experience.
• Would create a spirit of good will on the trails, respect for other people and the environment. Would minimize the impact of people on the trails.
• It can help us educate others on how to share and prolong the use of public trails so that we can use long into the future.
• Educate and inform users, better stewardship and appreciation of resources
• ONE clear message that will be easier to relay to the masses.
• Keep the winter trails safe for other users.
• It would make sharing my property with others more fun, if I didn't have to worry about people stealing vegetables from my garden, peeing on the walls of my barn instead of asking to use a bathroom. It would make the overall hiking experience much more enjoyable.
• Would welcome us on the trail without conflict.
• A trail ethic would benefit all, because it would set a clear goal and understanding how these trails impact their communities and the people who use them. Also understanding how these trails can bring people together to enjoy the benefits of living in Vermont, and how
Vermonters expect these trails to be used, and cared for. As someone who enjoys these trail systems, be it an alpine ski resort, or mountain biking trails, an understanding of the respect for the people who maintain and care for these trails which we surely love and enjoy so much, could only help to strengthen this bond between users of these systems.

- Keep non-mtn. bikers happy, which means riders would be respected...
- Continued use of the trails in the long-term. Protection of the environment. Good relations between users and landowners. Good behavior of the trail users.
- "It would help people understand how to behave on trails, which would help our conservation commission get the message across to its trail users.
- It would be especially useful for preschool to high school-aged people.
- It would make people aware of special needs individuals and their trail rights."
- It would clearly state the allowed users of the trails and the expectations of those users.
- Owners might be more likely to grant greater access; the recreational experience might involve less conflict between different types of users....
- A Universal Trail Ethic would benefit other 4x4 enthusiasts immensely. As I stated before, there are a few bad apples that ruin it for the rest of us, and give 4x4 enthusiasts a bad name, but adopting a Universal Trail Ethic can give the respectful users something to rely on when they confront those offenders.
- hopefully there would be an understanding that every one has the privilege of using the trail as opposed to certain groups assuming they have exclusive rights to the trail system.
- "When I go into the woods, I do so to experience nature--not to see litter or human waste, including the sounds and smells of snowmobiles or other motorized vehicles (or to fear being mowed down by them).
- If a trail ethic kept trails clean, quiet and in better shape, that would be nice."
- No need to create a set of standards for trail users to adhere to. One will already exist.
- it would provide consistency of use.
- it would put more responsibility on ALL users
- Linking areas to other areas, providing gateways to the other trails, etc
- I think that if everyone had the same understanding of the trails and how to use them/leave them, then more people could enjoy them! I think that if everyone goes by the same "rules" then there is less injury, less people getting lost, less damage to the environment, and overall is better for the trail.
- I haven't encountered many problems, and I do think that most people are respectful. The ones who aren't -- who leave trash or act obnoxious -- probably won't improve because of a published trail ethic. But it can't hurt!
- "Keep more trails open and in better condition.
- Preserve our natural assets."
- it would allow the resource to be there for my children and future generations
- By educating users before they plan an outing and arrive at a trail that should not be used.
- would bring a better awareness of the multi-use availability of our trails in the State and the need to educate the public about the feasibility of multiple user groups safely and enjoyably.
- A more pleasant, relaxing experience.
- Helps provide a metric for the stewardship of one of Vermont's major recreational amenities.
- it would keep me and others also environment safe and happy
- It would help different user groups to understand that our trail networks can be shared and enjoyed by all.
- access and programming is effected
• It would ensure access where appropriate and help ensure responsibility for safety by all
groups.
• It would clearly define what use is allowed so all are prepared and respectful
keeping the ability to use the resources of this state.
• I use the trails a lot and am currently planning a business in Vermont that will be using lots of
the beautiful trails. It would be great to be on the same page as other users across the state. I
would want to be a part of the decision making process and help keep them open and in good
condition.
• Green Mountain Club already has one in place. Trail quality and user impact.
• I'm a landowner and a vast trail currently runs through my property yet I don't use the trail for
my own activities to avoid conflict with other users. I would like areas that are prioritized for slow use where other users would respect the presence of non-motorized users yet the trails still get maintained.
• It would allow us the users to know what exactly is allowed on certain trails. I.e. Is this trail
open to both MTBs and horses? Snowmobiles and snowshoes? And allow the users to know
when usage is being violated.
• Keep the trails open for use and to allow new trails and maintain them
• I know what is expected of me and I know what to expect of others.
• My main interests are hiking and horseback riding on the trails. Horses are can be frightened
by noisy speeding vehicles, which also disturb the peace of the experience
• It would give mountain bikers the chance to expand their trail use while educating the public
on the ways mountain bikers do and do not impact the trails.
• Trails are very important for me to make a living (dog sled tours) as well as my personal
recreation. Trail access is essential to my chosen activity. mushers would be sadly limited in
trail options without the network of trails that we currently use in VT. We would likely lose
members of our organizations and sport without the trail systems in VT. There are
approximately 100 VT mushers using trails in VT. We are a small but dedicated group.
• I would love to have a universal ethic for guiding my use and any encounters with other users
in order to facilitate communication and build a common language.
• It would give people some knowledge that while they were poaching a trail that there were
formal expectations as to why they shouldn't be.
• It could open a dialog between user groups and be a means for developing mutual respect.
• It would help groups policing themselves with a standard use policy.
• It would provide some basic principles that could be used to make trails safer.
• The fewer conflicts there are across the state...the less we see in the news about conflicts. This
helps the municipal sector when it is trying to build new paths...typically multi-use
recreational paths that involve several property owners. When we read lots of positive
information about the benefits of having access to such trails, rather than details of user
conflicts and irresponsible users, it makes it easier to get community buy-in for new paths.
• "I feel it would be of benefit to all users of Vermont trails to be educated in what sharing trails
with other users entails. Often one group will not think of what the impact of their trail use
might have on others. If we are all going to share the trails and get along we have to have an
understanding of what that means and what we can do to make that sharing easier.
• Increasing safety on the trails would be another big benefit. Slow down and be careful on
shared use trails."
• We need help alerting users to the issues that come up in a timely manner. There is also a
feeling of entitlement that users often exhibit. I.E., I drove 30 minutes to this trailhead and I
am going to ride no matter how wet the trail is...
• Better relationships and understanding between various users of all groups, and land owners
• It would provide clarity and one set of guidelines that every user would be expected to know and follow.
• Vermont is one of the most beautiful states in the country and encouraging people to get out into the trails and woods to experience its true beauty is beneficial to the state and its tourism industry. Respectful and monitored trail use will benefit all.
• I hope it would increase the amount of landowners who will allow access for creating and using trails on their property.
• By having a guideline to work off of and by giving a plan for working with other groups.
• We need to be able to use trails in the State and Federal lands because cooperative private land ownership is dwindling. Vermont needs a trail system open to everyone to enjoy so that we are not infringing on other people's property. We need to feel part ownership and partly responsible for a trail system in government properties. By paying taxes and voting for representatives that encourage outdoor activities we are doing just that.
• Educational tool
• It would remind me about how to use a trail and hopefully keep the trail in good condition. It would be a common ground to use for conflicts as well as formation of new trails and partnerships.
• Safety & access to more trails. We run sled dogs & also use ATV's for running the dogs & ATV's are not allowed on a lot of Vt. trails.
• Uniform standards to recreate by are always better for multi users for natural resources and relationships with landowners...
• Hopefully it will open up more trails that can be used by our groups and know that we are welcome and that everyone will make an effort to maintain high standards for the trails.
• I think as our state become more populous and visitation/tourism increases the number of folks using the trails they will become busier. A universal trail ethic will create a common thread, language and rule between all users. Operationally this will allow users to better understand how and when to use what areas, as well as what to do in shared use encounters. I also think this exercise will help the various user groups such as mountain bikers and ATV riders gain familiarity with each other and possibly have a synergistic effect on each others efforts. Such as trail building or maintenance, I would bet an ATV might come in handy for a mountain bike trail building day. And the bikers might know of some new trail building techniques that create a more enjoyable riding experience for both.
• Long term maintenance of Trail use
• We seem to need constant reminders about proper conduct. People get lazy, complacent, or forget to show respect.
• We would more and hopefully better places to play
• I'd like to see more people realize that they have a role in maintaining trails. Yes they like to hike, but would they be willing to give one day a year into maintaining nearby trails? Would they be willing to attend planning meetings?
• Perhaps help the message get out, but for the most part the message is already out to snowmobilers. I believe there will always be a few users whose adverse actions have the potential to ruin trail use for the majority.
• We as a club could benefit from the chance to receive more funding to expand and upgrade our current trail system.
• Provide a safe and enjoyable environment
• "As one of the founders of the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST), it has been an uphill battle for the snowmobile community since 1966 to have a complete trail system.
VAST has put more money into all season trails in the state than any other group and 99% of the monies came from individuals within the state. It is about time that the snowmobilers of Vermont are treated equally and fairly.

- I wish the best for your survey"
- "Educate our members that we aren't the only ones using the trail system
- Dispel the stigma of the division between non-motorized and motorized use
- We accomplish more when we work together
- This is the future of recreation in Vermont - we have finite resources and need to keep trails open for all and future generations to enjoy"
- Would help keep trails available.
- Educating all users of a multi use trail system might cut down on conflicts between the groups concerning such things as safety. For instance, a cross-country skier on a snowmobile trail needs to be aware that that trail is maintained at great time and expense of the snowmobile club and that for the most part by volunteers. It may also inform the snowmobilers that they may encounter skiers/hikers/etc and that they are welcome on multi use trail areas.
- More trails and better public relations
- Would help keep trails now in existence which are leased or grandfathered in from the State, open and for use to public
- It would allow for a standardization of trail use expectations both from the users and the organizations that are promoting/offering their use. This may lead to better communication and collaboration with the National Forest Service and open up sustainable trails in the nat. Forest (Our town for instance is about 90% Nat. Forest).
- A Universal Trail Ethic will only be as good as the users willingness to abide by it. If the ethic encouraged multi-use with respect for other types of usage, this would be an advantage to all users. My dog sled & team have been accepted from cross-country ski trails on state land. As a native of Vermont, I resent being told I can't run on the same trail that I have used for over twenty years, because it has been designated for cross country skiing.
- It is important to have a set of standard rules in order to enforce the above program.
- It is sad to say that the people who are working with VAST through clubs understand and follow existing rule sets.
- With anything, a few ruin it for the whole and it is those that we need to focus on."
- Hard to say, could have negative impact if more rules/processes come down the pike. Currently we operate based on volunteers and they sometimes come far and few between and may or may not be willing to take on more. Snowmobile is a unique animal as it takes place over snow, thus the question of does the trail erode the earth goes away. 80% is private landowner that the volunteer clubs work with each year to obtain permission and most likely won't apply to other types of recreational use. VAST has guidelines in creating, maintaining and signing trails and there is a well-established relationship between the clubs and landowners within their own territory. This may thus not fall into a specific ethic, rather remain hand in hand between the two parties based on VAST procedures.
- Help make clear to other mountain bikers the harm that they can do to the trails
- I am passionate about my sport and care about its reputation and future usage. Reputation is everything in the eyes of the public land and private land usage.
- There would be respect for other the groups.
- I want my kids to experience healthy, intact ecosystems. User respect is the key to maintaining recreational access to Vermont's lands and waters.
- I don't know that it would. I don't think I understand what this is trying to accomplish.
- Any reduction in ATV damage would benefit everyone!!
• Vermont's trails are beautiful. This is the first year I have seen a trail be trashed. I don't know why it happened, but we should make an effort to stop it. If all users of trails had the same ethics in mind, I'm sure it would help.
• It would help maybe get trails open and keep them open.
• Teach users to respect the trails and other user groups.
• It may keep the integrity of the trail system in tact.
• Not really sure...I believe there has to be strict enforcement of current rules(laws) in order for anything to work.
• A Universal Ethic would lessen the competition for the same piece of trail. It would promote compromise and understanding with the goal of eliminating the "all or nothing" stance that individual user groups take. It would help coordinate resources towards a common goal.
• "It would probably help provide a more satisfactory experience for me and result in more volunteerism and less pressure on trail organizations.
• The main trails are becoming overused and that increases the need for trail relocations, puncheon construction, step construction, and so on. A common trail ethic that is broadly implemented and publicized should help."
• I doubt it would, but there's a chance the discussion would shed some light for the purists that think the existing trail networks never had an impact (i.e. new trails and new uses are an okay thing) and the State that seems to think that revenue driven recreation (i.e. hunting, fishing and snowmobiling registrations) are the only revenue that matters in this equation.
• "Provide a universal code of conduct and usage requirements for all use organizations, while educating all members and land owners about shared access and sustainability.
• There is no such thing as an incompatible use when it comes to trail access and usage; only uses that unwilling to be compatible."
• "Improve the relative enjoy ability of trail use by increasing the expectations of having a pleasurable experience through both the use of the trail and the minimal impact to the natural resources related to it.
• Cost of trying to control unwanted use, vandalism, litter, and arguing with non-compatible trail users about trail use would go down considerably."
• It would benefit all of us by reducing the amount of motorized 'vehicles' across Vermont's mountains and other rural, pristine landscapes so that natural resources are protected for the next generation and generations to come.
• Help to keep/gain access to the trails.
• Would allow for continued use of the trail systems in VT and ensure that they were available for the next generations.
• It would provide a consistent behavior among users, and an awareness of issues not that people haven't considered before.
• Clear communication of expected use
• It would help us to deliver a unified message and provide some backing to it.
• It would advertize the need for active participation in maintaining trails and advertizing their existence and bring users and owners together to celebrate and communicate.
• Helping to educate other users about the importance of multi use where appropriate, and where it is not.
• HOFULLY KEEP TRAILS
• If resources are protected then they will remain open to the public and productive to the environment in which they exist.
• Potentially it could allow responsible, managed motorized recreational use on public lands where currently it does not exist.
• Being able to use a trail that is well kept and protects its surroundings
• It would be a unified statement outlining each user's responsibility and right.
• There always has been a Universal Trail Ethic known and taught by rangers, guides, and naturalists working in the field. With budget cuts since the 80's, the loss of these positions and their presence on trails, and in parks and forests, has completely caused a lack of education for this ethic and doing so vanished. This survey demonstrates the essence for the loss. It seems like a re-creation of a foundation of principles that were a given, known by many, and forgotten over time. The benefits were and are many - access to many structurally sound trails planned around interpretive vistas, protection of the natural resources, an informed and educated public, scarce disuse of trail resources, a respect and admiration for maintaining and upkeep for trails, active membership and interest for trail orgs, etc.
• Users of our multi-use trail would enjoy their trail experience more if not confronted with the results of conflicting users.
• Collaboration = communication = long term success.
• As an off highway motorcyclist I frequently encounter other user groups who stereotype me and view me negatively. I don't ride where I'm not allowed and I respect other people allowing me to use their land and don't abuse that trust. A Universal Trail Ethic that emphasized respect and collaboration between user groups would help all of us get away from the stereotypes we all have, and maybe even start to build relationships between the various groups so we could work to build a trail network for everybody.
• If a UTE were present that laid out guidelines to allow OHMs to responsibly use trails this would guide users who may have otherwise been ignorant of their impact.
• Respect for others and the land benefits all.
• Promote more interest in volunteer work for maintaining trails.
• It would enhance our role in promoting the enjoyment of back country skiing in general and the use of the Catamount Trail in particular
• NA
• Monitoring use and impact of statewide trail systems will inevitably lead to more opportunities for trail construction. As a professional trail builder, I rely heavily on the voice of the users to determine which trails are to be built, maintained, or closed. I also rely heavily on an ethic that will guide responsible use that will not harm trails that I had the opportunity to build.
• My area of concern (and my user group) is backcountry skiers looking for a new line.
• If we all trim our own lines, we are impacting the local ecology, and in some instances, trespassing and/or breaking the law.
• A Universal Trail Ethic will help bring backcountry skiers together to ski responsibly in the woods of VT without jeopardizing natural resources or access for the larger group."
• It would help with promoting outdoor activity as fun, safe, accessible, something communities should invest in.
• By setting expectations and limits, everyone knows up front what lies ahead in terms of behaviors, uses, restrictions, etc.
• By establishing a respectful expectation ethic all users would be able to hold each other accountable to the same standards and see that varied uses of the trails/resources are not really as damaging to this shared resource as they originally thought.
• Guarantee access in a planned and controlled fashion for long-term prosperity of the activities and the sites.
- Better enable me and my club to help in supporting and managing trail use. Whether it be repairing and maintaining trails or providing financial or manpower assistance toward some other need in maintaining a common use trail system.
- Simple, Education of the individuals that cause the issues! Noise is the big factor. Modern off road trail bikes are not loud from the factory.
- Reduce staff time and cost to maintain trails and clean up litter. Could result in more interest from volunteers.
- It would clarify who can use which trail and it would hold trail users accountable for their trails.
- It will help me and others to continue what we love to do.
- It would allow an understanding that we all have rights, not just specific individuals.
- By all user respecting each other.
- By reducing trail closures due to inappropriate behavior.
- "I am concerned about increasing posting of private land and hope that trail ethics can give people more confidence in keeping their land accessible.
- I would also like to be sure I knew ahead of time what types of other users I'm likely to encounter."
- Keeping trails open or adding new ones and improving trail conditions will enhance my recreational experience.
- Not that much
- I believe defining a common user behavior in this way, cements the different groups together. While not all trail uses are compatible on a given terrain, all trail users have much in common. The issues in common could be addressed with a more powerful assembly of organizations.
- It could open up potential for public off-highway motorcycle use.
- I want Vermont's woods and wild lands to be around for generations to come. They define this state and they are the backbone of our rural economy. Balancing and accommodating diverse interests with maintaining true forest health will be key. I value that as an individual. I also work for an organization that has thousands of members across Vermont and beyond who too value and see our environment as the reason they live, work and visit Vermont.
- Maintain open access for all that enjoy the outdoors.
- It would indicate to other user groups that moto rider’s care about the same things as the hikers, bikers, and skiers...
- It would help to maintain a peaceful and wild trail system
- Make others aware of constitutional "pursuit of happiness".
- Family and friend interaction, better health, and keeping kids off of the streets more
- Trails flourish
- Are valued by all users and nonusers
- My grandchildren's children understand and use and pass on trails to theirs in good shape"
- Keep trails in better condition for my use
- Keep trails open
- I'd get to ride in more places closer in. As it is, I just started riding with the CCC and am very happy with the network they have in place.
- As of the present time there are very limited places for motorcycles to enjoy the sport of trail riding. So establishing a network of trails should be a priority in order to have a universal trail ethic. The CCC of VT has over 600 members in the last 4 years which is just a small part of the total off highway motorcycles in VT.
- We want to have our family and friends enjoy the outdoors.
- Allow myself and my family to ride legally in the state of Vermont.
• Assisting in keeping the trails available and open to the users.
• RIDING RESPONSIBLY WILL HELP KEEP TRAILS OPEN TO ALL USERS.
• If it would allow me to use my motorized vehicles on some of our beautiful trails, I would be a happy man.
• I just don’t know if it will because, there are just too many ignorant, uneducated users that are out there and people who just plain don’t care. As far as I am concerned the motorcycle community should not be lumped in with the four-wheeled community.
• By creating a universal trail ethic it gives users norms - rules of the road, values, guardrails, acceptable behaviors - whatever you want to call them - it results in a common understanding of responsible, sustainable trail usage; this translates to individual and group accountability. in plain English - what is okay, what is not.
• The one activity I enjoy that has the most potential for trail damage is OHV riding. I ride very responsibly, but am aware that a few hot heads do not. I’d like to see a point system similar to that for drivers' licenses. Accumulate so many environmental points and you lose your right to ride.
• Provide basic guidelines for determining natural resource impacts, use impacts, and user conflicts; and for steps in establishing new trails on both public and private lands.
• More voice, more hands, more resources
• Shows unity among users and is a tool for educating our specific use group
• Information is always good. The more people are informed the better chances we have of avoiding conflicts. Unfortunately it is up to the individual to administer them.
• It would benefit my organization by helping us all sing from the same hymnal. I want to be sure that my ethical value is not going to be compromised by either the lack or disagreement of another organizations. In this way, when we meet people on the trail and I say, "Hi, I'm from Lyndon State College," people won't roll their eyes in exasperation because of a different experience they just had with another college or university group. In this way, as we train our student leaders, they can become infused with a high level of trail and group responsibility that can be expected of all. They in turn will be able to pass that along to the students they are working with and throughout their professional career as wilderness educators.
• "I think trails would be better condition.
• Maybe the whole world will be better."
• It would make my experience of walking or skiing in the woods a more pleasant experience if I didn't have to worry about trash, pollution and dangerous speeds from snowmobiles and atv's, and loose aggressive dogs that are not controlled by their owner or a leash.
• It would help groups of multitrail users model their group ethics and organization after Vermont's if it becomes successful.
• Our future....
• "I expect that it would help us with landowner relations and our ability to work with new landowners when asking for trail access on their property.
• It would help the general image of snowmobilers, seem that the only press that we get is when something bad has happened."
• It would provide standards to hold myself and others to.
• A safer, more enjoyable experience.
• If it helps promote understanding rather than be a restrictive prescription for an elite few.
• It may lend a feeling that the trails are less primitive. Often users with trail experience in the West (of the U.S.) come off our Vermont trails with a strong sense that the trails here are primitive and poorly designed/managed. The danger is that a Universal Trail Ethnic is going to present itself as being a totally needles bureaucratic intrusion into what in essence is a simple
recreational opportunity. There is no need to have an advanced degree program in how-to-hike.

- Ideally it would create a better understanding that some uses are incompatible due to the means being used to access a trail.
- Unfortunately even trail use needs some rules and a Universal Trail Ethic would help everyone know what these rules/ethics are so they can abide by them.
- It's a new generation, and we as 70s and 80s parents did not seem to instill a distinction in our kids between technological enjoyment (snowmobiles, ATVs) and a more pure personally mobile enjoyment of our trails. Citizens need the message to consider as they use the trails.
- Were all citizens here, no reason not to tolerate each other...
- Clearer guidelines and ways to report abuses.
- "As an individual I am highly conscious of my own courteous use of the trail system and believe that the community as a whole would benefit if everyone adopted the same ethic. Motorized recreation on trails that have been traditionally non-motorized fundamentally changes the character of the outdoor experience and should be prohibited. Developments that impose a motorized trail on private landowners, such as the Rail Trails, should mandate rerouting options/detours around landowners who do not wish to subject themselves to the noise and pollution of motorized recreation vehicles.
- I have observed that bike bath users could use education re: "travel on the right, pass on the left". Seems walkers especially are unaware of this method, and runners often use the oncoming lane. I've also seen parents teaching their kids to bike that are unaware of this courtesy, so a little education (perhaps a sign at the path entrance) would help."
- I would have a much better experience using trails if I knew there was a common ethic to take care of the land and wildlife that they are part of. Seeing over and mis-used trails (i.e. too much ATV impact) has a strong negative effect on my experience and my desire to revisit the trail.
- There is such a diverse set of trail user groups in VT and a Universal Trail Ethic would help to unite these groups, develop an understanding of shared values, and support future support (financial, legislative, etc) of recreational activities in the state
- I hope the hiking trails would be less impacted by overuse and careless littering.
- I am an individual user - the benefit to me is simply the fact that those that abide by a trail ethic will lessen the impact on trail damage and garner increased cooperation of landowners and the Vt park recreation system
- Improve everyone's awareness of how lucky we are to have beautiful, shared trails.
- Our best local hike in Randolph, Mt. Cushman, is no longer a viable hike due to 20 foot wide and 3 feet deep ruts and watered mud puddles caused by ATV riders. This was a listed hike in the Green Mt. Club day hikes book, but now is untenable and depressing to (attempt) to walk. This is a pattern my wife and I have seen repeated over and over again throughout the state of Vermont.
- It would establish a common guideline for us to meet.
- I would expect that a successful program would open up more property for use also reduces maintaince cost for all.
- "Decrease frustration or disappointment
- Keep trails in good shape for everyone's enjoyment"
- Vermont is a worthwhile place to live because it has scenic beauty. This is also very important for Vermont's economy. If we have scenic trails, we are making people's lives better and assisting future generations. Obesity is a big problem in the USA. We need to promote healthy exercise. There are too many couch potatoes whose whole lives are eating,
TV and video games. We need to show people that there are better things in life than this. We don't want the USA to be the land of the sedentary couch potatoes. Children need to be shown the values of exercise and nature. Unfortunately, monetary considerations have been causing cutbacks in sports. This needs to stop. A sound mind in a healthy body should be our goal. Communing with nature adds so much to someone's life, it is a precious resource that we need to guarantee to future generations. That is where the ethics come in. We have an ethical duty to our country and state to keep Vermont scenic.

- A clear orientation of the overall goal is always a good place to start.
- Would hopefully allow for more trail access. I love riding trails on either a mtn bike or enduro motorcycle, I have a respect for the trails and also others that use them. There are some in the Enduro motorcycle group that need education on proper trail etiquette. I'm still amazed that some people don't understand loud exhaust pipes close access to trails. Further anyone thinking there is a performance advantage while trail riding is just simply wrong. Our group needs to further educate riders and perhaps manufacturers to reduce the noise pollution. I love the sport but can appreciate why people dislike it. I'm thankful for Mtn Biking because it is a similar experience for me and suspect trails will remain open to mtn bikers.

- "Broaden social aspect
- Broaden education of other activities
- Broaden education of enviro aspect"
- Keep trails safe and the environment safe
- I think that a Universal Trail Ethic would result in a better experience and less trail closures.
- Hopefully, by increasing OHV recreational use on State lands.
- "Consistent expectations among users
- Clarifying expectations among users"
- Possibly open more riding areas
- By making all members of organizations and users of trails more responsible and aware of their surroundings. Also a deeper appreciation of natural resources will result.
- Just make the trail use more regularized and clear to all users, thereby preventing any overt conflict.
- If such an ethic took hold across the majority of trail users everyone's trail experience would be improved and the trails would likely be in better condition. There might well be more trail opportunities for everyone to enjoy.
- Multi use: isn't it a federal requirement?
- "By helping to keep landowners willing to allow trails on their property.
- By allowing a more enjoyable experience for all users."
- "Educate and communicate. A lot of users are still ignorant of how they impact the land.
- Therefore, a healthy trail system and environment benefits the organizations that use it."
- My hope is that a UTE would help keep existing snowmobile trails open and accessible, as it is getting increasingly difficult in some areas to maintain current trail access. A more positive relationship with certain groups would also be an anticipated result. Trail organizations across the state need to cooperate and communicate, as groups look to use the same areas.
- Would establish written guidelines to guarantee access to all user groups, not just those who are politically correct.
- By educating our users we might have more people involved in the cleanup and maintenance work there are way to many snowmobilers that assume that we the volunteers get paid for the work that we do on our trails. these people could possibly be informed by adding a cover sheet that needs to be read and signed when you purchase your tma. if they cannot do this don't sell yhem a tma.
• Show that we are all required to respect our natural resources and that we can all enjoy them, no matter how we access them
• Open areas to ride.
• I am part of groups that try to develop local trails, so I know that a UTE would be a great template for approaching landowners about contracted permission to cross land.
• I am a senior citizen and I enjoy riding my horse all over, especially the Vermont trails. There are 2 parks that allow horses and one of them is hardly room for any one. Thanks for all your help.
• I think it would help private landowners and incompetent state organizations better understand the needs of Vermonters.
• More trails available
• Enjoyment and appreciation of open space. Vermont is beautiful and much of this can be preserved if good trail ethics can be incorporated before it’s too late. It is also imperative to keep the class 4 roads open. Some towns do not put it in a high priority and landowners are arbitrarily closing them off.
• By setting up guidelines for use it would eliminate "grey" areas of what is and isn't acceptable. Which could eliminate conflicts.
• "Me: Help me education my children in that ethics are an important part of recreating.
• Organization: Provide a collaborative message to the outdoor community on good faith practices."
• I ride horses on the trails; numerous times I have met others on dirt bikes or ATVs. I am pleased to say that I have never had a bad encounter - I have trained my horses to be aware of and comfortable around motorized vehicles and the riders of the vehicles I've encountered have been extremely sensitive and respectful (slowing down, shutting off engines, allowing me to pass them first etc). I believe it is just as much my responsibility to train my horses to be comfortable around motorized vehicles as it is to ask the riders of motorized vehicles to be aware of horses and their unpredictability. A Universal Trail Ethic would encourage greater cooperation so that all kinds of users can have fun and enjoy the trails.
• It is important for other users to be aware of safety measures around horses.
• It establishes a benchmark against which behaviors can be measured
• Make ATV users and bicyclists understand that they have to share the road.
• Keep equestrian riders safe
• Everyone on the trail would know how to use the trail. Our trails would be nicer with less necessary upkeep. A Universal Trail Ethic would keep our maintenance down and save us money.
• I think it would improve access. My hope is that one-day trail access for dirt bike and dual sport can be similar in scope to snowmobiling.
• More trails available for horses
• Better marked trails
• Establish who has a right and then priority of use the trail???? I don't experience user group conflict on the trails I use. I just want to ensure they are available for my use and support the expansion of trail networks to help resolve user conflicts in areas of high use.
• It could create more possibilities.
• Most people do not identify with a single user group, so I would like to see messages that do not put people into silos. I identify, for instance, with landowners, land trusts, town forest committees, quiet recreation of many types, and my employer is a national environmental organization. As a landowner I would benefit from not having users disrespect my land, and might feel more comfortable opening up our own private trails in a more public way. As a
land trust board member and town forest committee member, I would benefit from development of new trails on properties we conserve to build public support for land protection and public lands. As a quiet recreation participant, I would benefit from trails that show less damage to the environment (I have not personally experienced conflicts with competing users, but I know those do exist). As an employee, I am interested in how we can work more closely with mechanized recreation enthusiasts, many of whom also love the wild backcountry, to set aside lands appropriate for various types of use and avoid user conflicts.

- It would set a standard that each user knew he/she is expected to follow. It is good to have a set of rules, so to speak, so that it is clear what is expected.
- It would only benefit me if it were truly enforced.
- Lead to more open trails and erase years of propaganda by hikers and equestrians about the "evils" of mountain biking.
- Trails would be in better shape b/c people won't be using them when weather conditions mean use is detrimental. More pleasant recreational experience when all users are respectful and uphold safety. I value the success of multi-user groups on shared trails.
- It would make outings safer and more enjoyable for everyone.
- Share the trails. Respect other users.
- It might shed light on the fact that VT has some wonderfully valuable natural resources in its trail networks and that if the users of all these trails steward them responsibly, we all benefit.
- Not sure
- Vermont has such potential for equitourism, but the complaint we hear all over both in Vermont and outside is limited trail access and horse camping. We would definitely use the trails
- Help to protect trails for future use.
- Mainly to make trail maintenance easier. I don't think we have a lot of trail abuse just overuse.
- It would give me a basis to ask, and expect, others to comply.
- Horses are a part of the natural beauty of New England and horse owners share in the need to enjoy their sport in a safe and appropriate way (not on roadways). Allowed horse use of trails could be a magnet to potential residents as many horse owners purchase old dairy farms and need places to ride.
- More access
- As trail use increases, the general public needs to be educated about caring for the land/water in which we recreate. Trying to get people to respect natural resources will hopefully lead to the continued existence and availability of these natural resources. This will benefit me because I depend on getting out in nature to stay mentally and physically healthy. If more people get out to enjoy nature, our society might be more sane.
- Allow more access
- Support current tenets
- It's generally not a problem as we recreate in very remote areas and rarely come across other users, but for instance when we cross a VAST trail in the winter, a UTE would benefit all the users to contribute to a completely positive excursion (thus promoting the likelihood that people will repeat the experience) rather than a fun outing marred by a bad interaction with another user (which might cause one to seek alternative trails).
- Minimally...we use the trails more on "off" days
- By providing a resource that is clean, fun to use and a joy to behold
- Don’t know.
- Having positive guidelines for people to follow will be beneficial to everyone's experience!
• Probably would not be a benefit
• By ensuring that that my trail experience will not be compromised by another trail user who chooses to misuse a designated trail for something other than it proposed use(s).
• It would help to keep the landowners willingness to let us use their property and promote a safer sport for families.
• Allow more areas to horse back ride
• I hike/snowshoe mostly on trails that are least used. I prefer to not encounter other users while I am hiking. Because of this some of the trails I frequent are poorly maintained. I understand that it is difficult to maintain a trail with so few users. However, clear information about what organization does maintain the trail, and how to participate in that organization would be helpful. Some organizations are good about maintaining trails, but it is difficult to contact the organization. In other cases, the organization is actively hostile to users, for example the Shrewsbury Outing Club which maintains the Bessenay Purchase in the Plymsbury Wildlife Management Area. The trailhead sign identifies this group as responsible for trail maintenance, but it is nearly impossible to contact the group. They provide no contact information, no maps at the trailhead, the maintenance is often poor (especially the trail markings), and when I was able to finally contact the president of the organization, he was extremely hostile and unwilling to give any information about the trails. I did finally receive a trail map, but this kind of organization ethic is not friendly to users.
• Snowmobilers in Vermont really need to heed cautions received in the past. While the majority of riders are responsible, there are others that ignore things like no littering, no drinking, keep a safe speed. Also, ATV's riding on snowmobile trails are of concern. If we can all get along, work together, share the same message, then we can all enjoy the recreation that we choose to participate in instead of jeopardizing it for others.
• If all users are on the same page, the chances for meaningful co-operation increases exponentially.
• I don't belong to a user group, just resigned from my community's Recreation Board because of a time/schedule conflict. But, as a user of both on and water-way trails, an ethical use-value statement and educational presentation is important to users and non-users including land-owners who should also be signatory of any ethical coda.
• Would help to teach and promote the allowed recreation activities, and help insure continued trail access through mutual respect for all users
• It would allow all those who use trails to be respectful to others and enforcement of violations is the responsibility of those who use them.
• Could keep users from doing harmful things to the land and the owners.
• I don't know if it will help. If you have common sense and respect others then you already have UTE.
• This would provide a framework within which users are expected to operate, and will over time benefit the natural and community resources related to trail use. It will make my use of the outdoors a more enjoyable experience. It will help preserve valuable recreational resources for the future of the State.
• IT WOULD INCREASE ENJOYMENT AND UTILIZATION.
• Would not benefit.
• Avoid conflicts between users and create a clearer understanding/sharing mission for multi-use trail users.
• It would lead to a better trail experience for users, less resource impact, and more sustainable recreational infrastructure
• It would encourage me to ride more in VT instead of going to other states who already have a managed, well-defined Trail Ethic in place.
• HOPEFULLY IT MIGHT HELP PEOPLE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHERS INTEREST IN TRAIL USE.
• "Identify trails as a significant component of Vermont's communal infrastructure
• Identify trails as a resource for travel, recreation and tourism"
• It would let other trail users know that riders are welcome to use the trails and that we're not trespassing or using the trails illegally.
• It would allow us to reach out to landowners to with a standard of what kind of use they can expect by our members. This would be beneficial to us in obtaining the easements that we need. It would also enhance our user group experience by maintaining the trail in a good condition.
• By raising awareness of proper trail etiquette.
• It could help put landowners at ease relative to the abuse of their property thereby assuring future use. Anything that would prevent trail closures and create a atmosphere where landowners feel comfortable allowing use would be a benefit.
• Having the information out there so we can find it.
• Mutual Respect
• It would make the rules clear to everyone.
• It would allow public access in a more universal way so everyone would have equal access.
• I’m a volunteer who works with the Boy Scouts at the troop level. The scouting organization also has an ethics concept that will likely be reinforced by a Universal Trail Ethic for Vermont trails (and if they don't match up, there is a learning opportunity to observe the different priorities).
• Not really necessary. People are already courteous.
• Because equestrians are riding a live animal and not a machine, they are more susceptible to injury and lack of consideration than some other users. Many of our former riding opportunities have been eliminated for various reasons, so we are more dependent on shared trails.
• It would help keep horses off the roads and safer from trucks and young drives that just don’t care. and think they own the roads.
• As an individual involved with a mountain bike group, it is a good starting point for conversation and for posting on the trail. This shows others that the mtb community is willing to "self-police". This is also very important for statewide bike advocacy (VBPC).
• Training sled dog teams
• I would know that others are aware of my type of use of the trail (Equestrian trail riding), and I would feel more confident that the other users would know how to respond (being considerate) to my presence with a horse on the trail. In turn, I would also know what is expected of me as a trail user.
• Trail development, trail preservation and getting new places to ride. The Kingdom trails are the best example of all of this. We need more places like that!
• I would hope that it would educate all uses and make the trials safer for all users.
• Would be helpful for many of the small, unstaffed volunteer groups that maintain trails - they could use the language/approach as part of their education/outreach and standard of doing business (much like the leave no trace guidelines, or the standard language they can access through VT Trails and Greenways Council about things like recreational use statutes) - another resource available so that no one has to reinvent the wheel...
• It would hopefully keep people safer. It should also lead to better understanding of different types of users.
• Overall, I think it would educate people to be better trail users, which protects the environment and beauty.
• I would feel more comfortable knowing that other users were respecting my use of trail systems in the manner that I respect theirs.
• Help to keep land available for public access.
• Immensely. Anything that can be done in a positive manner to help promote safe, legal ATV recreation in Vermont would be beneficial. Getting the backing of the State of Vermont and any other trail organizations would also help illegal trail users become legal. Law enforcement of course would still be key, however a Trail Ethic would help steer users in the right direction.
• I have been brought up to be very careful about my impact on the environment, but I would hope that I could learn something new from this. Also, if everyone is on the same page, it is easier to educate someone else who needs to know the best behaviors when using trails.
• Help to educate young riders, gives everyone a behavior model. Trail users should be required to log hours in maintenance to foster appreciation for potential damage of reckless behavior.
• Better trail conditions and shared understanding among users about acceptable trail use and best practices.
• Better connecting all club trails
• Allowing atv's on trails
• Put everyone on the same page, equal use for everyone.
• By allowing atv use on state land
• we could reach more people with helping hands
• Set the tone of cooperation and respect for all trail users and alert them to the need to anticipate differing uses of the trails. Also, a reminder to protect these natural resources.
• The biggest problem I incur as an equestrian is lack of knowledge by motorized vehicle users and bike riders of what to do when they approach horses. In a perfect world motor vehicle operators on trails would stop, shut off their vehicle and allow the horse and rider to pass before starting up again and continuing their trek; on roads they would slow down to 15 mph and pass leaving plenty of room between them and the horse/rider AND if they see the horse is reacting badly to the vehicle they would stop and wait for rider to signal it's safe to pass. As far as bike riders, they need to alert you with their voice that they are behind you and announce that they are passing on your left or right. When meeting face to face, they should also speak and proceed slowly and with care and stop and wait for horse to pass them if the horse is reacting badly to the bike. It is definitely up to equestrians to train their horses to be road safe around passing vehicles and bikes but the noise or silence and speed can cause even the seasoned and safe trail horse to react with fright and thus placing the horse, rider, vehicle and its driver in danger of severe injury and even death. Thanks for asking and representing the equestrian viewpoint. I ride trails in Vermont around GMHA several times a year. That community seems to be well educated and rarely do I encounter a driver or bike rider who is not careful and respectful of the horse and riders. I wish that was also true in other places.
• We need to be able to enjoy the trails and share them. Anything that can help to educate users and create a positive impact for all user groups will benefit not only the users, but the state in general.
• It would let all the people using the trails realize that it can be done and we can all enjoy our resources.
• It would allow the ATV community the opportunity to educate other user groups and the public about the positive aspects about ATVing.
• It would allow for us all to work together to have more and better trail systems that we could all enjoy.
• Hopefully it would educate the offenders of trail use.
• Equal access to trails that I pay for as a tax payer
• It would set a uniform standard for behavior and environmental protection
• Amazing
• As a snowmobiler and one of the only user groups ponying up time and money to keep trails open it might help the other groups that use but do NOTHING for the betterment of the only thing they might contribute is the horseshit they leave behind after they ride their horses or create a water hole that their ATV left behind. locally we have an ATV club that is trying to get its feet under it and some of this type of promotion might help long term.
• It would give off road riders a new place to ride, new place to help take care of and maybe introduce us to new people in other sports and there sports also
• More access to trails if handicap motorized use was designed into them.
• By keeping ATV's off my ski trails.
• It would benefit everyone. This group is allowed here, but not that group. If we all had equal access to everything, we could get so much more usage area, usage time, and keep the areas nicer.
• LET ME KNOW WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME
• Would provide a clear consistent message to all trail users from all trail providers and organizations. Hearing this message from multiple sources and multiple venues will hopefully reinforce its validity.
• I think a defined set of "rules of the road" is always helpful. I would include contact info for reporting non-compliance. I think the vast majority of folks want to be "legal" and want to follow the rules and would be more willing to turn in those who do not if a defined set of rules were available. This would include "making way" for other users on the trails - I am thinking of hikers who sometimes refuse to make way for a vehicle to pass - this goes back to the common courtesy aspect of the rules.
• "I'm not sure there's much benefit.
• Trail ethics are relatively simple, as I said. Most organizations appear to have a similar Code of Ethics already."
• "As stated before, it would give us a bigger and hopefully a more relaxing area to enjoy our sport while working to preserve everything that is involved, just as we do at the present time...such as ""constructing bridges"" over any waterways, etc.
• Clubs and Organizations do CARE about where they ride."}

Appendix C - VTC Stewardship and Communication Work Group – October 2010
• It would put all groups on the same level with dialogue. Very much needed.
• It would set standards for all user groups to follow. No one could say that they didn't know.
• I could ride possibly from home to other destinations.
• It would hopefully help increase awareness for all riders and help govern the open trails, allowing land owners to see that the riders that use the trails do care about the land that we ride on and hopefully lead to more trails that like together for more riding and less tailoring for us all.
• It would provide more places [hopefully] to enjoy our outdoor recreation.
• Would benefit all trails users, of all types. It should help us all maintain and conserve the trails.
• Help spread stewardship of our natural environment.
• I don't really have a group, I enjoy trails in the forests and parks around the state and find them quite good overall. An ethic that went beyond groups and made it easier for individual users to be aware of area 'maintenance dates' and needs would be great.
• It would open a larger area to enjoy.
• Would help in protecting the trails and keep them open into the future.
• It would allow all to use the land we pay for by being overtaxed.
• Understanding that everyone is in accord with rules and regulations and groups/clubs monitor their members for obeying. Also, a system to control non members such as outlaw riders that are not adhering to such rules and regulations.
• My favorite trail activity is off roading. I often go out and find where there have been parties in the middle of the woods with trash and beer cans left all over. I usually pick them up and clean the area. The benefit to all users would be a nicer, cleaner experience in nature. When it comes to off roading the saying "a few bad apples ruins the bunch" unfortunately holds very true. If there was a universal trail ethic it may make more people aware that most of us really do care about the environment.
• In this sedentary world of computer screens, it is a necessary connection to the land we are connected to a dependent upon.
• Would help to bring about expectance of and allow greater access for motorized user groups.
• "less accidents"
• More cooperation from more people"
• Not sure
• By keeping a good relationship between the state and the individuals, group, or organization. Without ethics or responsibility no one stands a chance of opening this land for the use for the reason of this survey.
• It would help with in the proper communication of the sport.
• If we all know and play by the rules them we will all have use of the forest. UTE would help set places and times that each group could use the forest. As is now snowmobiles are only allowed on good snow conditions from Dec.15 to Apr. 15. Maybe horses will only be allowed from May 1 to Sept 30. With a good UTE in place we should be able to set some rules for all groups.
• Possibly more land opening up for our use.
• "open all dirt roads and select paved roads to atv's"
• This would boost state revenue's substantially"
• Access between lands. Some of which are private now and no connection between.
• "I believe a Universal Trail Ethic if properly put together and is Equally established for all users is the only way to positively establish a united trail system."
• The benefit is all users, groups, and organizations will respect all others following the same established rule system."
• "I use the trail system for many different uses. I see the disconnection between different users. Some groups get a bad reputation for something only a few do wrong.
• Trail users need to be educated. Educated on how to maintain the trail system and understand how different trail users see the impact of the others."
• It would keep people on the trail, and off my private land, out of my fishing pond, and unheard in my home.
• Allow our group more access
• Trail access!
• I'm an avid snowmobiler and also ride ATV's. I have been a member of VAST and VASA for years. I have a camp in Island Pond, VT that I can snowmobile right from the garage. I wish this state had a better trail system for ATV's to allow for day rides where you could decide to ride over to Derby and grab lunch or dinner. Connecting some of these ATV trails with a 6 to 8 foot wide section of trail would be great for the northern part of the state and the local businesses in those areas too, and would not be a huge impact to the land.
• A coordinated effort would highlight each of the groups efforts and resources towards proper use and maintenance of the Vermont natural resources available for outdoor recreational activities of all kinds - foot, bike, horse, skis, snowmobiles dirt ATV and Auto 4X4.
• Encouraging respect for the privileges of having and using trails.
• Better hike
• It would impact the economy in each town, because if we could connect trails and have long rides, the ATVers could stop in different towns and spend money site seeing, restaurants and stores. There would be miles of trails for everyone’s use to enjoy the environment and views.
• Unlimited access. To make more people, that use these trails, responsible for maintaining trails for emergency access. such as fire plane crash lost people. and it would be free maintains buy club members no financial burden to the state.
• It would give responsible ATV riders a place to ride.
• It would allow my family and friends to spend some quality time together doing something we enjoy
• Would be nice to ride and see other parts of state country side
• Expand our horse adventures.
• It would give responsible ATV clubs under VASA a chance to change to image of the sport of ATVing. Much the same as VAST had to do decades ago.
• To share the same ideas with other groups of users. to stay united in caring for the Trails and keeping them open.
• OHV users are good neighbors, and can mobilize for the good of the trails, landowners and users.
• It would allow more multiple use trails and make for an overall better trail experience for all. The VAST system is a good example. It would be nice if this system was opened up for ATV's also, as it would not only bring more access for people with disabilities who love the forest, but more volunteers for trails construction and improvements, along with opening up a interconnected trails system with less impact on private lands. Yes there would be more use and more maintenance but as I said before I believe it would bring more people to the trails to help out. For me, being disabled now, the long distance hiking, biking and access to some hunting areas is out, but I can still gain "some" access by adapting to the use of a 4-wheeler. This also allows me access for my pursuits as well as access to do more trail work and improvements. Most of the people in my clubs feel this way too, and they do allot of very fine
work out there. Just keep this in mind while making use rules, there is allot of good help available at no cost, with the right forest plan the trails system could be more "awesome". Sure there will be issues but it was that way with the VAST system when it first started up but look how far this has come and the revenue it brings to this state. With recipical registration agreements it will entice much more tourism in Vermont. New Hampshire doesn’t and it has cost them. Here's an example, some of my friends and fellow club members used to go to N.H. but sense they changed there rules on recipical registrations we no longer vacation there, no one is going to spend $60 per machine to go on a weeks vacation. There's 12 families (average 5 per family) not supporting the local economy, my last trip (4 in our family)I spent over $1200 for the week, multiply that and how much does that loss cost there state in the long run? And that’s just our small group!! And I know of at least 50 people that have mentioned this to me this very issue, I can't imagine the vast number of other people that feel the same way. Keep these things in mind when formulating use restrictions. It could cost us all in the long run.

- Might help open eyes of special interest groups that all trail users have a variety of needs and interests, and a tolerance of other people’s sense of what’s acceptable is needed.
- Keep trails open
- I am tired of the yahoo's coming in from out of state and "ripping up" the trails like they see on the snowmobile and ATV commercials.
- If a UTE emphasizing excellent stewardship of the land were adopted and effective in widely influencing accepted practices, it would benefit me, my children, grandchildren and everyone - users or not - by helping preserve the health of the land, and increasing awareness of the importance and fragility of intact ecosystems.
- I drive out of state (NH, Maine and NY) a couple times a month to take my family, and we have 4 children, 4 wheeling. The gas, the meals, the hotels all $ going out of state. Last I checked our state budget wasn't exactly stellar.
- By giving us more access to lands and better access.
- IT WOULD CREATE AN UNDERSTANDING AMONG ALL CONCERNED.
- It would help my wife and I to keep the property we allow for public use to be open without causing us a constant source of work and frustration.
- Reduce conflicts. Reduce environmental impact.
- "As a guideline for trail acceptation by all trail users so all users an enjoy the trail.
- My trail, the Catamount Trail can be shared and maintained and shared by the local community."
- My primary concern is gaining access to public lands for off road vehicle use (ATV). Currently trail availability is limited to private lands and the number and miles of trails are poor compared to other states where we ride. A universal trail ethic would guide safe and enjoyable mixed use for many different types of recreational enthusiasts, including ATV riders.
- It would allow us more trails in the state
- I own an ATV and I am a hiker. By having a universal trail ethic to include multiple uses of trails and the wilderness it would benefit the many types of groups who access the area in all the seasons.
- We all want to enjoy Vermont,. we need to back away from special interest groups and work together, once we all reach the same goals then we can focus on maintaining the rec areas together which allows us more time to enjoy them
- Some trail users feel any motorized devices are bad and try to obstruct such uses
• It is a privilege to have areas to ride and explore. It was also nice to see the efforts put in by the clubs and members to make this enjoyable for everyone.
• I hope it might finally give us access to actually use the land and an opportunity to show we are good land stewards too.
• I think anything that would promote trail ethics would be good. We cannot stress the importance enough!! We are totally dependent on landowner use.
• A lot more people could enjoy the outdoors and lands it was meant for even the disabled
• Organized access, use, and rules. Individual and club contribution to maintain trails and continued use, and a basic understanding of the other users needs on these trails.
• A universal trail ethic would put all participants on the same page. There are many singular efforts that should be a group effort especially multi use trails. Vermont woodland and forestland is a wonderful asset not being used to it's full potential. And in many instances objection and reluctance is a product of not experiencing the real outdoors.
• We receive many calls from landowners who are disgruntled about private property and natural resource damage, lack of enforcement, and carefree use by recreationists, especially motorized users. A universal trail ethic, if followed, would help alleviate this pent up frustration by Vermont residents. We also sometimes receive requests from landowners to help them address environmental impacts from trail construction, especially when recreational groups fight Act 250 jurisdiction. Fighting Act 250 jurisdiction wastes money and time. Resources are better spent working through the process and addressing impacts to mitigate natural resource issues and build landowner confidence in projects.
• WE WOULD SPEND MORE TIME AND $ RECREATING IN VERMONT
• It's about trails and more riding
• "By keeping the trails open and clean of dog messes and litter, so everyone has the experience of the woods in their natural state.
• Many people use a little visit to the woods daily for centering or calming, as well as for physical exercise."
• It would allow all user groups to operate in a manner that does not affect any group negatively.
• It would create awareness and cooperation among different user types.
• What would benefit me is actually having and being able to use ANY trail that is on Public land with my Enduro bike. Why don't I buy motocross bikes in VT? Because not one cent of my tax goes toward providing me with anywhere to use them. All my tax money goes toward is being told I cannot use them anywhere - a waste of my money. It's been proven/shown in other states that establishing riding areas for OHV brings in tourism and tax money - check out the Hatfield-McCoy riding area in WV. A trail system would greatly benefit all OHV groups in VT by having somewhere they can ride and be proud of.
• Would help give us a local baseline for education... Currently we only have the Tread Lightly Guidelines, and that’s much more broad.
• I hope it would recognize that my choice of activities is valid, important to many, and should not be excluded, due to a small minority that has given these activities a bad reputation. I hope that it will deny some user groups the exclusivity that they, wrongly, feel they deserve.
• Would keep the trails in good condition and accessible.
• "Again, I'm really clear on what this ethic would entail and particularly how it would be universal, when different trail users have very different mentalities. For example, as a mountain biker, I hate pissing off hikers who never seem to want to share "their" trails with bikers. As a hiker, I don't like to see ill prepared or rowdy/obnoxious groups. As a backcountry skier, I really do not like to share my trails with snowmobiles. I also believe
strongly in allowing dogs in the backcountry, but there are certain precautions that need to be taken. But, for each of these activities and perspectives, there's a whole set of suggested behaviors that would facilitate positive shared experiences, and they do not necessarily overlap enough to become a universal ethic.

- Also, again about the dogs, one thing that really scares me is that a universal ethic would include excluding dogs. Nothing in the world brings me more happiness than to include my dog in my adventures, and he is a member of our family who also needs exercise, fresh air, and adventure. I can't imagine going into the backcountry and leaving him home. But we clean up after him, keep him out of other people's way or business, keep him from barking, and he's always under our control and leashed on summits. I would stress when considering factors around trail and dogs that it is not the poorly behaved dog that is inherently bad, but rather the owners. I would like to think that a little education would help mitigate most on-trail dog-related problems.

- I think for the dog issue and really for all proposed "ethics" that stressing to think of those that will come after you is important. Don't leave food, garbage, or human excrement - all of these are pretty common these days."

- I don't know that it would.

- Right now, there is no legal off-road motorcycling in the State of Vermont, yet registration fees are collected. With all of the wonderful land in the state, there should be some designated to the activity.

- It would place all trail users on a level playing field. Instead of equestrians versus motorcyclists vying for trails, it could place all trail users in the same group - "Trail Users".

- More options always makes for continued enjoyment for years not just months.

- Keep trails open, in good condition, and clean to use and enjoy.

- It would be something I could hand to my friends from the "flatlands" when they come up and use the trails.

- More places to ride and enjoy.

- It might allow me a place to ride my dirt bike in my home state instead of driving to NH and giving them tax dollars.

- Keep trails open and available for use. Add new available trails to be used by general public or group ride events.

- Hopefully make people think about there actions and reduce the chances of having problems.

- Help keep trails open for use.

- It would keep the trails open. We work hard on trail conservation, but a couple bad apples always cause issues for all.

- By providing a safe and environmentally friendly place to ride motorized vehicles.

- It would be nice to educate all the users of the trails and forest, so it is enjoyable for all.

- As an Off Highway Vehicle enthusiast the state of Vermont is ultra limiting, down to the looks people give you. Something like this could create a code of conduct. More often than not, I honestly feel that the people who do the most damage are the ones who lack the knowledge to recreate in a proper manner. A kid that gets a 4x4 as his first vehicle and wants to go on a trail may find the nearest snowmobile trail and think that is the coolest thing ever, when it isn't. If they knew a place to go then the chances are they would go to the right places.. Education is key.

- Yes, as long as "common sense" is used. The tree huggers should get their head out of their ass and realize that their are other groups in this state that have the right to use lands whether they are public or private.
• It would verify that different communities can work together towards an important end. Seeing it around at trailheads and on the radio would also be good PR for the general public. It would let them know that there are concerned communities out there working together towards a conservation goal, both conserving the natural resource, and conserving the trail systems.
• Giving everybody a chance to use the Vermont public lands that we pay taxes for not just snowmobiles.
• Establish and provide locations and trails that are legal, safe, and fair for all users. So that our recreation does not negatively impact someone else's.
• By keeping the land in good condition, we show respect to landowners, which keeps trails open and opens new trails.
• "Having a universal ethics code would help ensure the co-operation and understanding of different User groups of each other and help foster a healthy atmosphere for landowners and public alike.
• This will also provide the groundwork for responsible stewardship of the trails, from environmental concerns to public perception, and that of fellow trail using peers."
• As an avid Off Highway Vehicle user I feel as though we're given a bad reputation because most people see us as gross polluters who are just tearing up the environment. But in reality there are many OHV users that are extremely responsible, follow Tread Lightly guidelines and help conserve natural areas and repair damaged environments.
• A universal trail ethic would be great to all user groups allowing each group access and helping to promote tolerance among all groups.
• More legal options for places to go and enjoy. Too many class 4 roads are getting closed due to inappropriate user activity.
• A universal trail ethic will enable groups from all aspects of trail use to more easily educate responsible trail use. In the off highway vehicle category, we will have a "hard copy" of trail use expectations to communicate to and educate those who share our activity. Further more it will assist in preventing dangerous practices such as the, "party till you puke and go wheelin' and tear things up" type of situation.
• This would keep all that use the off road system on the same page weather it be a 4wd, ATV or a snowmobile, Mtn biker, or hiker. All would be educated, on trail Ethics.
• It would simplify our understanding of what trails are open to us and what trails are not. It would also help other users understand that we have a right to use the trails also.
• If all user groups could work together a common thought process lot more could be achieved. The system pushes many people to travel out of state.
• I'm not sure how a universal trail ethic will work with off-highway vehicles and "green groups". They are so opposed to each other. There has to be room for both. That said, there needs to be common ground to start with. The common ground is the decision that an off-highway area WILL BE DESIGNATED. After that the discussion can be about placement and how to protect the environment.
• Keep more trails open, keep it enjoyable for all.
• It would keep our trails cleaner and keep them open.
• It would allow us to enjoy the trails we frequent with respected it deserves.
• "Many states such as California, Colorado and West Virginia have developed hundreds of miles of multi-use trails on state and federal land. In the case of West Virginia, they are building a huge opportunity for tourism dollars to enter economically depressed areas. It is
unfortunate that the only acceptable form of motorized backcountry travel in Vermont is the "snowmobile". The State is missing out on an opportunity to become a family destination for non-winter OHV recreation. We are one of the only states that does not provide opportunities for motorized recreation on the land that "we the people" own and pay for with our tax dollars. With education and cooperation, Vermont could be another great example of how tolerance and open-mindedness can lead to recreational possibilities we never thought could exist. All of us share these common goals: to protect access to public lands, protect the environment and its beauty, to enjoy traveling and being outdoors, to encourage responsible recreation and tourism.

- A great trail resource can be found here:
  - http://www.americantrails.org/
- Ride Happy
- This would help insure trail use for our group, and help project a positive image for outdoor recreation.
- It will keep the trails out there open...instead of us looking into private land that we get permission to wheel on. Because of some high school kids our image as a tread lightly responsible 4x4 club gets demolished. We as clubs have down many trail clean ups and never see recognition for it. Just trying to keep our hobby legal....
- It WOULD SUPPORT WHAT I BELIEVE IN AND HELP ME TO COMMUNICATE TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE LESS FAMILIAR WITH GOOD AND SUSTAINABLE OFF ROAD USE PRACTICES.
- More open trails, more variety in general. Not having to worry about less mindful groups going out and ruining it for the rest of us.
- It will only benefit a group such as snowmobilers if it prohibits the federal, state, and environmental groups from continuing to erode the general access to trails or to reduce the area in which snowmobilers can ride.
- More trail to jeep on
- More places to ride.
- It would have all the organizations and clubs on the same page and rules/regulations instead of putting each other against or doing the same work more than once.
- If it would keep motorized vehicles away from trails, that would be great. Kids on high-powered snowmobiles hot-shotting on shared trails are both dangerous and annoying, but they're not going to listen to any Universal Trail Ethics.
- Get all user groups to work together towards one common goal and dispel the stereotypes by giving all groups a chance to show what they can do.
- If people would respect the land and landowners, more land would be available to use and less trail closures would happen. This would allow for more areas to ride, less wear and tear on land being used, and less work involved in trying to open new trails just to find a place to ride. Vermont has an overwhelming amount of private land. If the people who use the land work with landowners and the State, there would be less work involved and everyone could have access to a trail system.
- Hopefully it would get more places to ride and go.
Question 8 Results

What resources would you be willing to contribute to establish and maintain a Universal Trail Ethic for Vermont?

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I am willing and able to help make this happen! Below I have listed how I am able to contribute and my individual and/or organizational contact information. 244

Answered question 807
Skipped question 74

The 244 open responses for the question “What resources would you be willing to contribute to establish and maintain a Universal Trail Ethic for Vermont?” contain confidential contact information of respondents and have intentionally been omitted from this report. Vermont Trails and Greenways Council will maintain this information as follow up with individuals as appropriate.
## Question 8 Results

This initiative is important for Vermont, to me personally and/or my organization. I wish to be kept informed about the development of Vermont's Universal Trail Ethic and future opportunities to contribute via email.

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*answered question 547 skipped question 334*

The 547 responses for the question “This initiative is important for Vermont, to me personally and/or my organization. I wish to be kept informed about the development of Vermont's Universal Trail Ethic and future opportunities to contribute via email.” contain confidential contact information of respondents and have intentionally been omitted from this report. Vermont Trails and Greenways Council will maintain this information as follow up with individuals as appropriate.