

The New Hampshire Mushers Association would like to see the following introduced as legislation as soon as possible. It is our understanding that the wording to accomplish these goals should be best left to Legislative services. If that is incorrect, please advise and we will attempt to put this into a more suitable format.

Goals	Rationale
To be officially recognized as a trail user group by the State of New Hampshire, similar to snowmobiles, ATVs, equestrian and hiker users.	Currently mushers are only recognized as “other users” in legislation and most official documents. Because of this we believe we are often left out of planning and offering inputs on trail use issues. Additionally we believe it would provide clear coverage under the State insurance policy.
To be allowed to use various training devices on trails in New Hampshire which may currently have restrictions on their use	Mushers have for years used many forms of training devices on trails in New Hampshire to train their dog teams. These include but are not limited to wheeled rigs, ATVs (with or without engines) sleds, and other devices to assist in the control of their teams. Because of the current climate regarding ATV usage in particular, we are being banned from many trails where we previously had trained. We submit that our usage of any of these training devices does not cause any environmental damage as they are operated at reasonably slow speeds, the dogs provide the “pulling power” and there is no damage from spinning tires etc. We would therefore ask that such training devices, WHEN BEING USED TO TRAIN A DOG TEAM AND HAVE A DOG TEAM ATTACHED, be permitted on trails that would otherwise exclude their use.
To be covered under Section 508	Would provide limitation of liability same as other user groups.

For additional background and information we have attached a very brief history of “mushing” in New Hampshire. We would also like to note that in addition to the major historical contribution that New Hampshire sled dogs have made, we make a significant economic impact on the State as well. Although we have not yet completed our economic impact survey, we strongly believe that between the individual expenditures for vehicles

used exclusively for dog transportation, food, veterinary costs, equipment, travel & lodging etc. as well as the tourism brought into the State for races and events, the total will be in excess of \$1million.