


From: Fairlee Town Administrator TownAdministrator@fairleevt.org 
Subject: FW: Concerned about AMP Compliance at FTF
Date: October 19, 2020 at 3:04 PM
To: Bill Weale [REDACTED]

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From: Fairlee Town Administrator <townadministrator@fairleevt.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 7:38 AM
To: Dyer, Rick [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Concerned about AMP Compliance at FTF

Thank you, Rick
Tad

From: Dyer, Rick [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 7:22 AM
To: Fairlee Town Administrator <townadministrator@fairleevt.org>
Subject: Concerned about AMP Compliance at FTF

Hi Tad,

As we discussed on the phone, I stopped by the Fairlee Town Forest (FTF) on 10/1. Given that a heavy rain had fallen two days earlier, I wanted to quickly look at a few of the most damaged trails just to see how they were handling rain after weeks of dry weather. To my surprise, I discovered that a mini excavator was working on Howdy's Trail. While it was a surprise, I was pleased to see that action was being taken to correct the AMP issues to and to stop sediment from discharging into the waters of the State. Upon closer inspection, I observed that the work being done was not following the AMPs as I had recommended. No attempts were being made to correct the issues that were causing water and sediment to dump directly into the stream. No attempts were being made to bring the trail into compliance with the AMPs. This is not what I was expecting to happen and somewhat frustrating to see. The work being done has accomplished nothing other than to create bare earth to be washed away during the next rain event. To my dismay, while re-visiting the site on Tuesday (10/13), I observed active erosion and a discharge of road material into the stream resulting in cloudy water. This is not good and needs to be addressed immediately.

As I was heading back to the car, I met Jim O'Donnell. According to Jim, he was opening the trail up for logging and stated that the culvert at the bottom of the trail was going to be replaced soon with a slightly bigger culvert. Jim and I talked about the AMPs, the importance of them, and how to implement them accordingly while conducting his work. He disagreed with me and told me that he has been building trails his whole life and had created most of the trails within the FTF. He also stated that water runs downhill and that he sees nothing wrong with his work. After he was done stating the obvious, I told him that he still has to follow the laws and regulations despite the effects of gravity. He once again disagreed and would not accept the AMP Manual when I handed it to him. He could not answer my questions about the size of the culvert or if any calculations had been done to correctly size the culvert for the watershed and stream. Jim told me that he works for Mike Wright and that I should talk to him if I have any questions.

I am awfully concerned about what is currently happening on Howdy's Trail and throughout the rest of the trail network in the FTF (the only exception and glimmer of hope is the good work recently completed by Limlaw and Redstart). Unfortunately, the work that is currently underway is counter-productive and only making problems worse.

I strongly recommend that the AMPs be implemented immediately and that the discharges be stopped as soon as possible. The following measures must be taken:

1. Install surface drainage structures consisting of water bars
2. Armor the ditch with large stone or install stone check dams
3. Install stone aprons and headwalls at culvert inlets
4. Install settling basins at culvert outlets
5. Seed and mulch all exposed soil with 50 feet of the stream
6. Temporarily install hay bales and silt fence to stop sediment from reaching the stream until all of the above work is completed

Please keep in mind that the above work is designed for logging purposes. Regular recreational use of motorized vehicles will require that additional measure be taken.

As I have stated before, I am happy to help and willing to meet with any contractor to review the AMPs and how to implement them accordingly. I just need some cooperation on the other end. Please keep me updated as to how the Town of Fairlee is going to address this matter and how I can be of assistance. Thanks.

Rick



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Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation is taking additional community protection measures. Many staff are now working remotely and may not be available in person. We encourage you to communicate electronically or via phone. Learn more about [COVID-19](#) and stay connected with us at VTforest.com.

