

## Brassard, Trini

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**From:** Steven Gorelick [s.gorelick@isec.org.uk]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2006 12:13 PM  
**To:** Brassard, Trini  
**Subject:** LVRT management plan

Dear Ms. Brassard,

I'm not sure I understand why comments on the LVRT draft management plan have to be submitted by US mail, but since I am currently in California on business, there is no way this comment would reach you by the deadline if it were sent that way. Hence this email.

First, I want to identify myself as an abutting landowner to the trail, which cuts across a portion of my land. For this reason alone, I was horrified to discover that the management plan calls for the use of chemical herbicides on the trail. It is inevitable that runoff and wind-blown drift from this spraying will end up on our land, which we manage organically. We grow a fair portion of the food my family consumes, and sell (as organic) various fruits and vegetables to our neighbors and to local stores. We are not 'certified organic', but in any case the question is not whether NOFA says it's "OK" to continue labeling our products as organic: I'm concerned about what herbicides do to our children, to the food we grow, and to the wildlife that shares our land.

Second, I am the father of two children (6 and 9) who will undoubtedly want to use the trail for biking, hiking, skiing, and other non-motorized purposes. I don't want my children exposed to herbicides, and I suspect many other parents feel the same. Allowing herbicide spraying will, in effect, make the trail unusable to a large segment of the population it is supposed to serve. I suspect that if the public were more aware that pesticides are to be used on the trail, the outcry on this issue would be deafening.

Finally, I'm concerned that the power given VAST over the management of this project seems to have no checks or balances. There are no provisions to ensure that this will even become, in fact, a four-season trail, and not just a one-season trail for snowmobiles. Spraying herbicides during the period when the trail is in use by pedestrians is but one example of VAST's obvious indifference to users other than snowmobilers. Even the rushed deadline for public comment on the management plan is a product of VAST's "need" to have the plan finalized by the start of snowmobile season. This bias towards motorized recreation even extends to the baffling decision to reserve a seat on the management committee to a representative of VASA, the state ATV group -- even though ATVs are barred from the trail. Why? And why are no seats reserved for abutting landowners?

Thank you for accepting these comments, and I hope you do all you can to incorporate appropriate changes into the management plan.

Steven Gorelick  
PO Box 36  
East Hardwick, VT 05836