

## Jessi Leach

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**From:** Kate Scarlott [windhorse@vtlink.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 23, 2008 8:59 PM  
**To:** jessi@vtvast.org  
**Cc:** Trini Brassard; Chip Sawyer ((LCPC)); Doug Morton; bethany@nrpcvt.com  
**Subject:** LVRT management plan comments

Please accept the following as our comments on the most recent revision of the LVRT management plan (MP):

1) The management plan has now been combined with the development and maintenance plans into a single document numbering 261 pages.

This is a daunting document for the public to read and review, particularly considering the comment period is less than a month and the document is only available online. We appreciate the opportunity to review each of the three plans. However, the very large size of the document and the fact it is only available online will inevitably prevent many people from being able to adequately review and comment on the plan. The document is too big and inaccessible to many, and the comment period is too short.

2) Enforcement continues to be a serious problem on the LVRT, both in reality and in how it is addressed in the MP. In the most recent snowmobile season, we followed the directions of the MP and called the sheriff regarding numerous violations on the trail. NOT ONCE did we see any sign of enforcement on the trail or receive any response to our calls. We also sent our concerns to the LVRTC via the official complaint form, also as prescribed in the MP, and received a single response which did not address any of our specific complaints or concerns. We have experienced and documented numerous violations on the LVRT, including speeding, excessive noise, curfew violations, failure to stop at the stop sign at the road crossing in front of our house, and severe air pollution. These violations have also been experienced and documented by neighbors. VAST contends, in the MP and in public forums, that it is not responsible for enforcement and passes the responsibility to the sheriffs and fish and game wardens.

VAST does not make any effort to patrol the trail through its members. The lack of enforcement is known by snowmobilers, and there are plenty who abuse the privilege of this public trail which passes through private land and past private homes. The lack of meaningful, effective and responsive enforcement on the LVRT poses a serious safety hazard for non-motorized users and landowners and imposes unjust burdens on private landowners along the trail.

3) ATV's are not allowed on the LVRT. The MP needs to state this fact clearly and definitively state that the trail is open only to non-motorized users, with the only exception being snowmobiles in the winter. The question of allowing ATV's on the LVRT has been a source of intense concern for both non-motorized users and adjacent landowners, and the MP needs to address this in a very clear and definite manner. Enforcement of the prohibition on ATV's is also a significant problem on the LVRT.

4) After significant public comment against the use of herbicides on the LVRT, the project engineer for the LVRT recently stated publicly that HERBICIDES WILL NOT BE USED ON THE LVRT. This is another issue that has caused intense concern for

both users and adjacent landowners, and these concerns are well documented in the public process for the LVRT. The prohibition against the use of herbicides on the LVRT needs to be stated clearly and definitively in the MP.

5) The LVRT committee (LVRTC) needs to be more fairly representative of the entire population that is involved with the LVRT -- non- motorized users in proportion to their use of the trail and an adjacent landowner representative. While VAST manages the trail, the reality is that non-motorized users will make up the greatest percentage of users on the trail once it is fully developed and their interests need to be fairly represented in proportion on the LVRTC. Adjacent landowners number in the thousands along this trail, and their interests also must be fairly represented on the LVRTC. Both non-motorized users and adjacent landowners representatives should be selected by a process independent of VAST.

We have previously submitted additional comments in October, 2007 by letter to VAST and Trini Brassard of VTrans, and we request that those comments also be included in the public comments. Thank you.

Kate Scarlott & Rob MacLeod  
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