



ORDER NO. 2016-01

**ORDER OF THE FOREST SUPERVISOR
RESTRICTING USE, TO WIT:**

**SNOWMOBILE BRIDGES AND TRAILS
GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST – VERMONT**

Under the authority of the Act of Congress dated June 4, 1897, as amended (16 U.S.C. 551), and pursuant to the Secretary of Agriculture's Regulations set forth as 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart B (36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b)), the following acts and omissions are prohibited on bridges and trails located on the Green Mountain National Forest, Manchester Ranger District, in the towns of Mount Tabor, Weston, Peru, Sunderland, Glastenbury and Somerset in Rutland, Windham, Bennington and Windsor Counties, Vermont, said area being described and designated as shown on the map set forth at Exhibit A & B, which are attached hereto and made a part hereto:

1. Being on the trails and bridges designated on the attached map with a snowmobile. (36 CFR 261.55(a).

THIS RESTRICTION IS NECESSARY FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND TO PROTECT NATIONAL FOREST PROPERTY. IT IS IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL PROHIBITIONS SET FORTH IN 36 CFR PART 261. THE PROHIBITION WILL BE IN EFFECT FROM THE DATE OF THIS ORDER UNTIL SPECIFICALLY WITHDRAWN BY TERMINATION ORDER OF THE FOREST SUPERVISOR.

Pursuant to the provisions of 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission (36 CFR 261.50(e)(1)); and,
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of any organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty (36 CFR 261.50(e)(4));

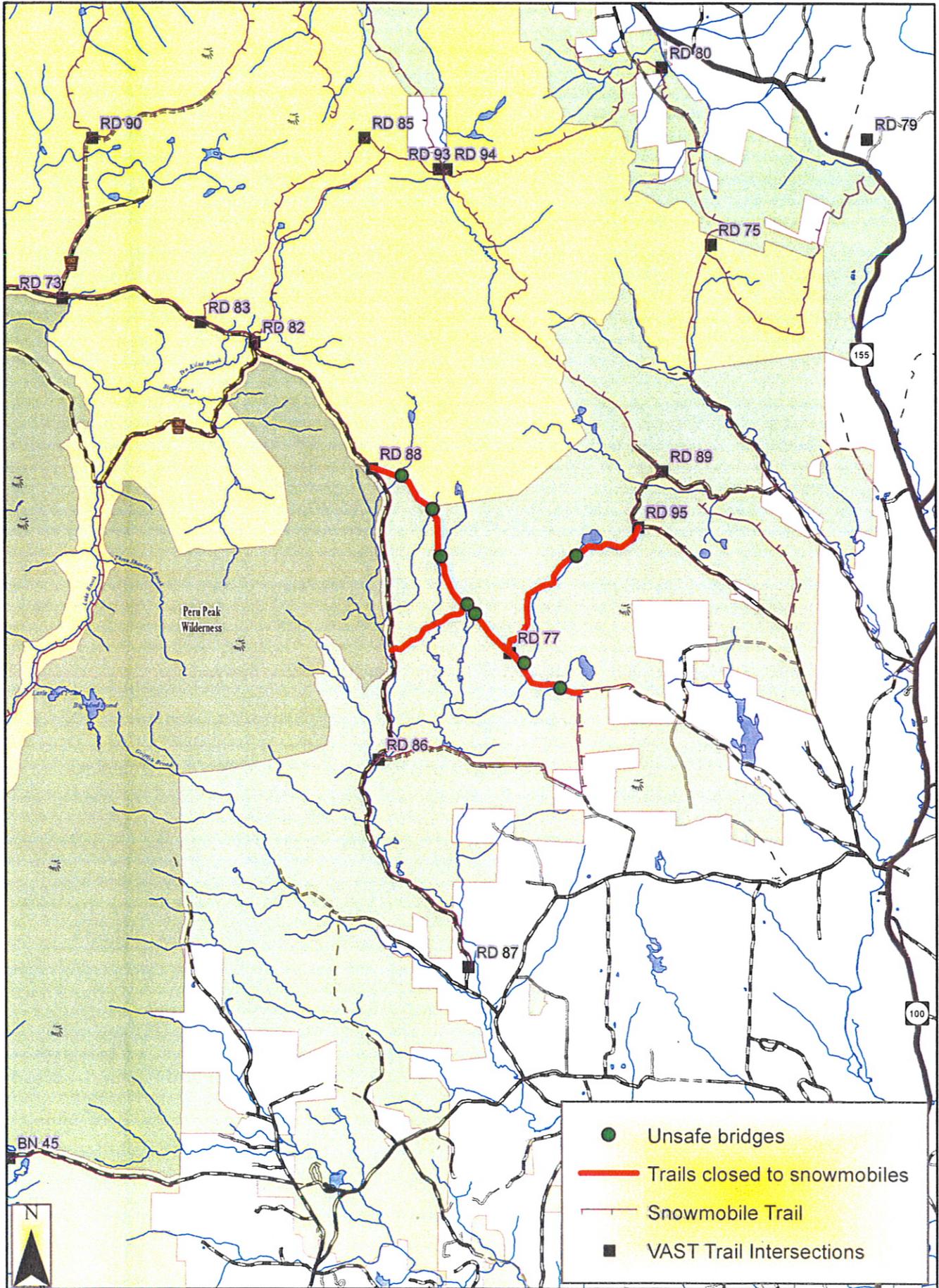
Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5000.00 for an individual or \$10,000.00 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both (16 U.S.C., 18 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571).

Dated this 7th day of December 2015, at Rutland, Vermont.

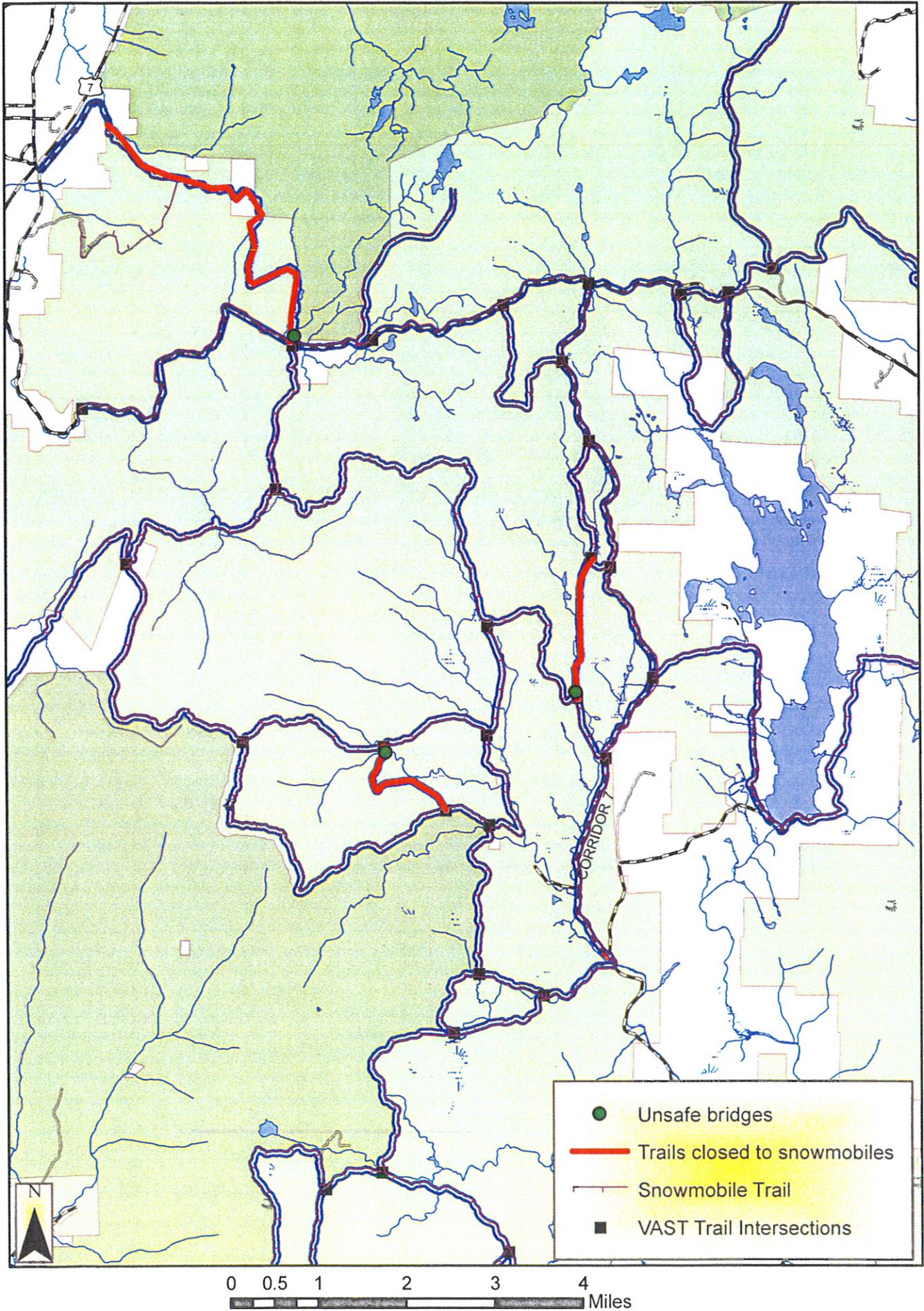


JOHN SINCLAIR
Forest Supervisor
Green Mountain National Forest

Closure Order #2016-01
Snowmobile Trails Closure - Manchester District North - Exhibit A



Closure Order #2016-01
Snowmobile Trails Closure - Manchester District South - Exhibit B



**Green Mountain National Forest
Closure Order # 2016-01
Snowmobile Bridges and Trails
Statement of Purpose and Need**

The Manchester Ranger District on the Green Mountain National Forest has proposed closing numerous snowmobile bridges and associated trails. The bridges have been evaluated by Forest Service engineers and have been determined to be structurally unsound and unsafe for use by the snowmobiling public. They will be undergoing further analysis to determine if they will be replaced repaired, or removed. Until further assessment is completed and replacement or reconstruction is accomplished the bridge will remain closed to all public use.

In addition to the bridges themselves the Forest will also close several sections of trail that provide access to the closed bridges. The trails will remain open to pedestrian travel.

**Forest Supervisor's Closure Order Enforcement Plan
Green Mountain National Forest
Vermont**

Order Number: 2016-01

Order Name: Select Snowmobile Bridges and Trails

Public Notice:

Copies of closure shall be posted and available for public inspection at Green Mountain National Forest Headquarters and District Ranger stations at Manchester, Rochester, and Middlebury, Vermont.

A press release shall be distributed by the Forest to inform the public of the closure.

Forest staff will work with the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers to have the closures included in their interactive on-line trail map.

Signs detailing closure shall be posted at each end of the closed sections of trail.

Signs detailing the closure will be placed on both sides of each the bridges.

Enforcement:

Patrols shall be conducted by Law Enforcement personnel and Forest Protection Officers.

Officers shall take appropriate enforcement action based on circumstances found in the event of a violation.

To: Mary King, Special Agent in Charge
From: Steve Burd, Patrol Captain
Through: Michael Clemens, Regional Patrol Commander
Date: 12/1/2015
Re: Green Mountain National Forest proposed closure order # 2016-01

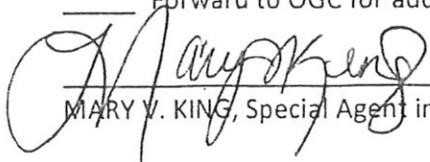
The Green Mountain National Forest has proposed implementing a closure order to prohibit the use of snowmobiles on numerous bridges on the snowmobile trail system. The bridges have been evaluated by Forest Service Engineers as unsafe for public use. Further evaluation is planned to determine if the bridge can be refurbished or replaced. Until this determination is made and needed improvements/replacement made the bridge will be barricaded and signed as closed to public use.

In addition to the bridges the Forest is planning to close the portions of snowmobile trail leading to the bridges. The trails will remain open for pedestrian use.

The proposed order and supporting documentation is attached. I recommend approval of this proposed order for implementation. Please advise if you have any questions or require further information to complete your review.

I have reviewed the proposed orders for the Green Mountain National Forest and decided the following:

- Return the order to the Forest for implementation
- Return the order to the Forest due to insufficient documentation
- Forward to OGC for additional legal review



MARY V. KING, Special Agent in Charge

12/1/15
Date