



## FRIENDS OF THE WAPACK-TRAILS COMMITTEE

### ***SPRING PATROL / TRAIL INVENTORY***

Here are some guidelines for your spring patrol / inventory of your section of the trail. These guidelines were edited from a list provided by the Trailwrights.

**PATROL:** Patrols should be held in the early spring with a minimum of two people for safety and enjoyment reasons. The purpose is:

1. Remove winter blowdowns. Some blowdowns may sometimes be left to block ORV's. Cut or notch out for foot traffic.
2. Clear trail of debris, twigs, etc. Be sure to scatter all material off the trail, out of sight.
3. Pick up trash and litter and dispose of properly.
4. Clean out water bars and drainage trenches of debris, making sure that the outlets are cleared as well.
5. Brushing should be done after green-up, but on patrol obvious obstacles can be taken care of, such as stickers (dead limbs on pines that stick out at you) and growth across the trail.
6. Have a good time before the bugs come out.

**INVENTORY:** While on patrol, take an inventory of the trail's condition and needs. I like to carry a notebook to record my observations (memory fails). Later, record your observations on the Trail Condition Report form. For your inventory, please make note of the following:

1. Signs, blazes, cairns. The condition of these should be noted with a listing of needed replacements and repairs. Signs should be checked for visibility, damage or need. Back off lag bolts on signs if necessary to keep trees from growing over them. Blazes should be checked for visibility and need for renewing. Are there too many or not enough? Cairns should be visible and solid.
2. Brushing needs of the trail. Check if it is up to standard. Could you walk with a sheet of 4' x 8' plywood down the trail with the 8' dimension as the height?
3. Standing water problems are best found early in the season, just after snowmelt and during a rain. List or mark the location for future work. If time permits, you can drain some of these areas while on patrol.
4. Mud and wet areas again best found early in the season. List as to hardening possibilities, bridging or relocation.
5. Bridge or stream crossings studied for condition, upgrading or replacement.
6. Signs of erosion should be looked for at all times.
  - a. Grass will be lying all in the same direction.
  - b. Little dams of soil and leaves.
  - c. Small pebbles and rocks on top of the soil.
  - d. Gullies on the trail with no drainage provided.
  - e. Water bars and trenches plugged up.
  - f. On old roads rock culverts (as on Chapman Road) or metal culverts can plug up, sending water down the trail.
  - g. All of these signs require attention as soon as possible so locations must be recorded.