

# GROWING SMART

## Trail Development on High Knob

Trails of all types can create environmental liabilities. The following tips can help communities and organizations build sustainable trails on and around High Knob.



Unsustainable trail construction practices can lead to costly damage from erosion and runoff, as is seen here on a motorized trail above Coeburn, Virginia.

### Tip 1: Know the Ropes

Trailbuilding takes more skill and expertise than it may seem. Do your homework by seeking out guides to sustainable trail development or contract with a qualified engineering and construction firm for your trail project.

### Tip 2: Communicate

Many trail construction activities fall under state or federal environmental regulations. Know your agency representatives and involve them in project planning. Publicizing trail plans and soliciting public input can also help you catch potential environmental issues early on.

### Tip 3: Consider Sensitive Habitats

The High Knob Region's wetlands, streams, cliffs, and caves are all sensitive to disturbance. Route trails well away from—instead of alongside or through — these features and avoid disturbing them while developing your project.

### Tip 4: Plan for Maintenance

Trails require nearly constant maintenance to be sustainable over the long term. Budget for maintenance when planning a trail project and identify who will be responsible for keeping trails in shape. Developing (and responding to!) an intake mechanism for user concerns can also help your organization stay on top of trail issues.



Learn more about sustainable trail development and access resources to assist in planning trail projects in the free *Growing Smart on High Knob* planning blueprint. Available at <http://bit.ly/highknobblueprint>