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State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

172 Pembroke Road Concord, New Hampshire 03301
Phone: 603-271-3556 Fax: 603-271-3553
TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964
nhstateparks.org

49



August 6, 2025

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

In accordance with Administrative Rule Adm 611.08 (g), the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, Cannon Mountain Ski Area respectfully requests permission to increase their fleet size by one (1) vehicle effective upon Governor and Executive Council Approval.

EXPLANATION

Cannon Mountain Ski Area is requesting the addition of a new Honda Pioneer 1000-5 side-by-side utility vehicle to the Cannon Mountain fleet for use by Ski Patrol and mountain operations. This five-seat UTV would be used specifically during the late spring, summer, and early fall seasons when trail maintenance, construction projects, and offseason patrol support are at their peak. Since the reopening of Mittersill, the scope of Cannon's off-season coverage has expanded significantly, and a dedicated utility vehicle is now essential for ensuring staff can access both peaks safely and efficiently. The five-seat capacity allows for the transport of tools, materials, and personnel, as well as the ability to assist with any off-season medical or evacuation needs that arise.

This request is particularly important given the future projected downtime of the Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway, which will reduce Cannon's ability to move staff and equipment between mountain areas. The Pioneer 1000-5 would serve as a reliable transport alternative across rugged terrain, filling a gap in our current fleet capabilities. With multiple capital projects and trail improvement initiatives scheduled for the coming seasons, the addition of this vehicle would directly support our operational readiness and safety coverage during the off-season months.

Cannon Mountain Ski Area is requesting one (1) new UTV. This UTV is a necessity for Cannon Mountain to effectively provide transport around the mountain. Funding for the vehicles is available in the Cannon Mountain Account (03-035-035-351510-37030000-030). The source of funds is 100% Agency Income.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah L. Stewart
Commissioner



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July 22, 2025

Attn: Lincoln Adams, Department of Administrative Services, State Fleet Manager
Cc: Gary Lunetta, Director, Division of procurement and Support Services, Department of Administrative Services

Re: Fleet Increase Request

In accordance with Administrative Rule Adm 611.08 (g), the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, Cannon Mountain Ski Area respectfully requests permission to increase their fleet size by one (1) vehicle effective upon Governor and Executive Council Approval.

Cannon Mountain Ski Area is requesting the addition of a new Honda Pioneer 1000-5 side-by-side utility vehicle to the Cannon Mountain fleet for use by Ski Patrol and mountain operations. This five-seat UTV would be used specifically during the late spring, summer, and early fall seasons when trail maintenance, construction projects, and offseason patrol support are at their peak. Since the reopening of Mittersill, the scope of Cannon's off-season coverage has expanded significantly, and a dedicated utility vehicle is now essential for ensuring staff can access both peaks safely and efficiently. The five-seat capacity allows for the transport of tools, materials, and personnel, as well as the ability to assist with any off-season medical or evacuation needs that arise.

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Upon receipt of DAS support, we intend to submit a requisition for the above-listed vehicle based on the statewide vehicle contract available at the time. It is our desire to obtain the approval of the Governor and Executive Council in a near-term meeting, to include this DAS letter of support.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Marino".

Christopher Marino
Chief of Administration



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Attn: Gary Lunetta, Director

Department of Administrative Services
Division of Procurement and Support Services
State of New Hampshire
25 Capitol Street, Concord, NH 03301

Greetings,

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Cannon Mountain, respectfully requests approval for the purchase of a new 2025 Honda SXS1000M5P.

Cannon Mountain respectfully requests approval for the purchase of the 2025 Honda SXS1000M5P, which has been identified as the most suitable model for our operational needs, particularly for managing steep, narrow trails and performing essential lift evacuations.

Vehicle Specifications and Operational Fit

The Honda SXS1000M5P is ideally suited to our terrain with its narrow 64-inch wheelbase and compact 122-inch length, making it highly maneuverable in tight, rugged environments. Unlike wider UTVs that struggle with confined terrain, this model's dimensions ensure superior control and stability, which is crucial for safe descents from the mountain. The vehicle's four-passenger capacity is also essential for our summer lift evacuations, enabling us to transport multiple individuals efficiently in a single trip.

Regulatory Compliance

The purchase of a 5-seater side-by-side vehicle aligns with compliance requirements under the ANSI B77 code for aerial tramway evacuation, which mandates that auxiliary power cannot be used for evacuations. The Honda SXS1000M5P will provide the capability for personnel to safely reach and assist in the manual evacuation of passengers, ensuring full adherence to safety protocols.

Honda SXS1000M5P vs. Similar Models

The Honda SXS1000M5P stands out in several key areas compared to other models. It features an automotive-style Dual Clutch Transmission (DCT) with paddle shifters, which provides smooth, direct power delivery and precise gear control on steep and variable terrain. This contrasts with the CVT transmissions found in Polaris and Can-Am models, which, while simpler, are more prone to belt wear and slippage under heavy load or in wet and snowy conditions. Honda's DCT excels in durability and engine braking, making it better suited for mountainous trails.

In terms of durability and reliability, Honda is legendary for its low-maintenance and long-lasting components, which make it ideal for use in remote and demanding environments. While Polaris and Can-Am models are known for their strong performance, they tend to have higher maintenance needs and more frequent belt issues. Kawasaki, while reliable, has a lower ground clearance and less agility, making it less suitable for our specific operational needs.

The Honda SXS1000M5P also offers a unique QuickFlip seating system that allows for rapid conversion between 3-person cargo mode and 5-passenger mode. This flexibility is particularly valuable for rotating between hauling gear and transporting crew. While Can-Am and Polaris 6-seater models also offer passenger capacity, they are less flexible and more cumbersome to convert for gear storage. The Honda model's narrower width and tighter turning radius also make it better suited for tight trails and switchbacks, which are common in our terrain. In comparison, the wider frames and longer wheelbases of the Polaris and Can-Am models offer comfort but struggle in tight, technical terrain.

Cost-wise, the Honda SXS1000M5P falls at a mid-range price point but offers exceptional long-term value due to fewer breakdowns and longer service intervals. Polaris and Can-Am models often have higher upfront or maintenance costs, while Kawasaki offers a slightly lower cost but is not purpose-built for the rugged terrain we manage. Overall, the Honda provides the best value-per-use over time.

Fleet Experience and Maintenance Capabilities

Cannon Mountain has a history of utilizing various UTVs and side-by-sides for operational tasks. Our current fleet includes 7 UTVs, all of which are integral to our daily operations. Based on our experience with different models, we have identified specific vehicles that perform well in the challenging terrain we manage and others that have not met expectations due to limitations in maneuverability, durability, and capacity.

Over the years, we have tested several models, including Polaris Rangers, Honda Big Reds, and Kawasaki Mules, which showed challenges in tight, mountainous terrain. After rigorous testing and evaluation, we found that the Honda SXS1000M5P aligns with our needs more closely than other models we've considered.

Conclusion

Given our team's experience with both successful models and those that have not met our needs, as well as our capability to maintain this specific vehicle model, we believe the Honda SXS1000M5P is the best choice for our operations. We respectfully request approval for this purchase, which will enhance our operational efficiency and ensure safety compliance for aerial tramway evacuation.

Thank you for your consideration.



Christopher Marino
Chief of Administration, Division of Parks & Recreation
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources



State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
25 Capitol Street - Room 100
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
(603) 271-3201 Office@das.nh.gov

Charles M. Arlinghaus
Commissioner

Catherine A. Keane
Deputy Commissioner

Sheri L. Rockburn
Assistant Commissioner

August 5, 2025

Attn:
Chief of Administration Christopher Marino
New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Division of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Response to Fleet Increase Request

Chief of Administration Christopher Marino:

Please accept this as receipt of your request to increase the NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, Cannon Mountain fleet size by one (1) UTV, prior to submission to the Governor and Executive Council for formal consideration.

It is the position of the DAS Division of Procurement and Support Services Fleet Management, that the NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Park Operations fleet, be increased by one (1) UTV.

The request to increase the fleet by one (1) UTV is reasonably justified and compelling enough to merit consideration by the Governor and Executive Council in a near future meeting.

Should the Governor and Executive Council approve, you will have one (1) year from the G&C approval date to purchase the vehicle. Purchases will not be approved if longer than one (1) year from G&C approval date. This would be sourced through the competitive bidding process.

Thank you for your proactive request to involve us in your fleet review in support of statewide efforts to maintain fleet efficiency.

Respectfully submitted,

Lincoln Adams
Administrator II, State Fleet Manager, DAS Division of Procurement and Support Services

Lincoln J. Adams

Gary S. Lunetta
Director, DAS Division of Procurement & Support Services

DN: cn=Gary Lunetta, o=State of
New Hampshire, ou=Division of
Procurement and Support Services,
email=Gary.Lunetta@das.nh.gov,
c=US
Date: 2025.08.05 13:42:48 -04'00'