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High Resolution Photos available:

<http://www.jacksonxc.org/uploads/images/2012/IMG-20110922-00175.jpg>

CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS ELLIS RIVER TRAIL IN A SLUMP – LITERALLY

The Jackson Ski Touring Foundation reported that their most popular trail disappeared – literally. A pair of earthquakes last year resulted in splitting the Ellis River Trail in two. Soil engineers from MIT and geologists from the US Forest Service determined that the soil, substrate and degree of slope at this location was unstable and would continue to slide away, possibly for years to come.

The damaged stretch of trail – scarcely 50 yards in length – required over a mile of new trail relocation to ensure that the trail would safely bypass the affected area. With thousands of skiers each winter, the Ellis River Trail consistently rates as Jackson Ski Touring's most popular trail.

Work began in August 2011 to construct the rerouted trail by cutting and excavating. After a month's extraordinary work, the new trail was carved out of the hillside, graded and seeded. The new section of trail climbs from the original Ellis Trail (north of the trails warming hut) along a switchback, then heads north over rolling terrain. At the northern end of the new trail is another switchback connecting back to the regular trail.

Along the new portion is a breathtaking view of Mt. Washington, good news for skiers who make the trip.

However, the bad news is that the expense of this relocation. Over \$85,000 was spent on the redesign, approval process and construction work, which required a significant and unbudgeted portion of the Foundation's financial resources.

As a non-profit organization, Jackson Ski Touring Foundations relies on its members and friends for financial support. Daily trail fees, rentals and lessons scarcely cover operating expenses for the season.

The Jackson Ski Touring Foundation is a community based not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, chartered to maintain trails in and around the village of Jackson, NH. The "Foundation" maintains 154 km of trails that are considered the finest cross-country ski trails in the Eastern United States. Foundation trails connect with A.M.C. trails in Pinkham Notch and White Mountain National Forest back-country adventure trails. The Foundation operates under a Special-Use Permit with the White Mountain National Forest, and with the cooperation of 82 private landowners, and the town of Jackson.