



DCNR'S REVISED ATV POLICY

**PRESENTED BEFORE THE CONSERVATION & NATURAL
RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

JANUARY 22, 2020

BRIEF HISTORY

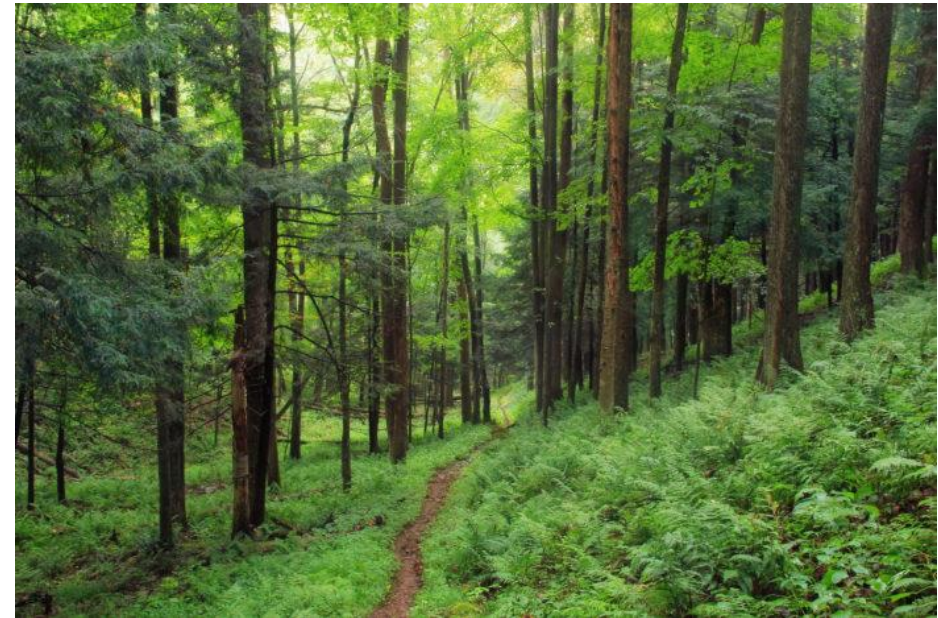
- 267 miles of ATV trails and connectors in state forests
- Additional resources needed for enforcement, management, maintenance, and education
- Unauthorized riding causes harm to resources and endangers visitors and staff
- ATV Trail Moratorium (2001, 2003)
- 2015 policy limited development of new ATV trails
- 2018 Fiscal Code language



Anthracite Area Outdoor Adventure Area

STATE FOREST REVIEW PROCESS

- Is the proposed trail on DCNR lands?
- Will any special designated areas be impacted either directly or indirectly (e.g., wild or natural areas)
- What type of construction or right-of-way is required?
- What are the impacts to the natural resources and wildlife habitat?
- What are the impacts to rare animal and plant species?
- What are the impacts to aesthetics, noise values and the quality of experience for other recreational users?
- Has public safety been considered?



MAKING PROGRESS

- More dedicated funding through ATV registration fees
- DCNR full-time staff person to manage motorized recreation opportunities
- Investments in ATV recreational areas and trails on lands not managed by DCNR
- Strengthening public/private partnerships
- Exploring how to implement large connector trails (Whiskey Springs to Bloody Skillet)
- Exploring land acquisitions specifically for ATV recreational use



UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS

- Demand from increasing # of Riders
- Changing demands from motorized recreational riders (e.g., long-distance riding)
- 2016 DCNR ATV User Survey
- 2017 Feasibility Study (Whiskey Springs to Bloody Skillet)
- 2019 Statewide Feasibility Study
- 2019 CNRAC Recommendations



OPPORTUNITIES

- Supporting a growing recreational activity
- Providing more direct connections to state forests
- Providing greater access to those who have physical limitations
- Growing Pennsylvania's outdoor recreational economy
- Supporting rural communities and helping to grow their local tourism and recreational economies



CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS

- DCNR's constitutional responsibilities as role of Trustee
- Potential impacts on the natural resources
- Ensuring quality of experience for all recreational users
- Establishing a network of stewardship leaders within the ATV community
- Costs for DCNR to maintain and enforce
- Creating a volunteer network or investments through private sector to help maintain ATV trails
- Balancing safety issues



POLICY CHANGES

- Rescinds the 2003 moratorium
- Permits DCNR to explore opportunities for new trails/connectors on state forest lands
- Continues to prohibit ATV trails in state parks
- Permits the Secretary to designate BOF roads as temporary, seasonal or permanent ATV trails.
- BOF/DCNR may request public comment for projects that have broader impacts on the community/region.
- BOF will not consider a trail that requires access onto lands not owned or managed by the agency without an easement or legal agreement in place



PUBLIC INPUT

- Sharing with the various advisory committees and stakeholders, including:
 - Conservation & Natural Resources Advisory Council
 - Ecological Management Advisory Council
 - Natural Gas Advisory Council
 - Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Council
 - PA Trail Advisory Council
- Sharing through DCNR's communication outlets:
 - Social Media
 - Email
 - Website
- 60-day comment period
 - Deadline: March 27, 2020
 - Email: which email to PAForester@pa.gov
 - DCNR will review/consider all comments





QUESTIONS???