

Ride Legally

Pennsylvania residents owning and intending to use their ATV in Pennsylvania (except those used exclusively as a farm or business vehicle) must be titled and registered with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Snowmobile/ATV Registration Unit.

To legally operate an ATV in Pennsylvania that is registered in another state where Pennsylvania's registration is NOT honored, the ATV must also be registered in Pennsylvania.

This registration permits the machine to be operated off the owner or operator's private property, where legal, and if permission is secured prior to riding on a particular property.

The registration fee is \$20 for two years. The owner is provided with a registration plate, an expiration sticker, and a Certificate of Registration wallet card.

All ATVs in Pennsylvania must have a title issued by DCNR. The cost of the title is \$22.50. The only exceptions to this requirement are those ATVs registered with DCNR prior to February 12, 1987. These ATVs do not require a title until they are sold by the owner.

Liability insurance coverage is required for all ATVs that are required to have general registration. Proof of this coverage shall be carried by the operator. The law does not specify a minimum dollar amount for coverage.

This pamphlet is not intended to be a substitute for the actual law and regulations. To view the complete ATV law, please refer to the website: www.dmv.state.pa.us/pdotforms/vehicle_code/chapter77.pdf

All law enforcement officers in the state, including local and state police, are authorized to enforce the Snowmobile/ATV Law. Municipal and state police have authority on private land.

Remember This

Your actions speak for all ATV riders. Leave a good impression with everyone you meet on the trail. Always be courteous and friendly to others you meet on the trail. The importance of common courtesy and knowledge of trail ethics will go a long way to preserving your privilege to ride on public lands.



Meeting Hikers or Bikers: Approach slowly, pull over, and stop or proceed very slowly. Hikers will usually hear you coming and step off the trail. Keep your speed low and steady when you pass hikers or bikers. One "blip" of the throttle can cause a shower of dust and gravel, and provoke hard feelings against all ATV riders.

Stopping and Talking: If you stop to talk to other trail users, remove your helmet. Helmets act as masks and may intimidate others. It will also be easier for you to hear what they're saying.

Meeting Horses: Approach slowly, pull over (on the downhill side if possible) and turn off the engine. Slowly remove your helmet and talk in a normal, calm voice. This allows the horse and/or other animals to recognize you. Ask the lead horse rider what you should do or how you can assist. Avoid sudden movements. Wait until horses have long passed and then quietly continue on your ride.

Tread Lightly Tips

Responsible ATV riding starts with tips that will have you leaving a good impression on Pennsylvania's natural resources when you ride.

T ravel and recreate with minimum impact.

R espect the environment and the rights of others.

E ducate yourself, plan and prepare before you go.

A llow for future use of the outdoors; leave it better than you found it.

D iscover the rewards of responsible recreation.



For further information

Please visit the following websites or call the following numbers:

Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry
www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry
717.783.7941

Allegheny National Forest
www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny
814.723.5150

Pennsylvania Off Highway Vehicle Association
www.paohv.org

on the
Right Trail
An ethical guide for ATV riders



Eight Ways to Help You Stay on the Right Trail

1 Practice Good Wildlife Ethics

View wildlife from a distance. You'll have a longer lasting view and cause the least amount of stress if you use binoculars instead of trying to drive up to wildlife. Obey all trail, road and area restrictions. Chasing and harassing wildlife is unethical and illegal.



2 Obey All Trail and Road Restrictions

When planning a trip, always consult a trail map to locate the route you are planning to take and review any trail restrictions that may be in place. Restrictions are in place to protect natural resources, reduce disturbances to wildlife, and provide non-motorized recreation opportunities. Don't assume a trail is open because you see other vehicles. Tracks may have been made by uninformed or deliberate violators.

3 Ride Quietly

All ATVs operating in Pennsylvania must be equipped with a muffler and spark arrestor in good, working order. The sound intensity produced by an ATV may not exceed 99dbA, or decibels, when measured at 20 inches from the tailpipe. Loudness does not equal power. Ride slow and at a low RPM and low throttle around camps, campgrounds or trail sections where other trail users are likely to be encountered.

4 Avoid Stream Crossings, Riparian Areas and Wetlands

Cross streams only at designated bridge crossings. The green "ribbons" of vegetation found along streams, rivers and lakes are called riparian areas. These areas stabilize the stream banks, filter sediment to protect water quality, and provide food and shelter for fish and wildlife. Never ride in riparian areas or wetlands where soils are wet and soft. Wheel ruts are easily made and disrupt the function of these areas. What you may see as an inviting off-trail puddle is usually a vernal pond -the egg-laying habitat of many amphibians.

Avoid them!



5 Stay Only on Designated Trails

Never ride cross-country. When riding on a designated trail, stay on that trail. Shortcutting the main route and driving around rough spots creates unnecessary new tracks. Unauthorized shortcuts and multiple wheel tracks adversely impact the environment and increase the cost to maintain the trail. Never shortcut across switchbacks. Weight shifts and smooth use of the throttle or brakes will help you negotiate switchbacks to prevent gouging of the trail.

6 Follow the Rules

In order to have a safe experience with your ATV, you must follow the necessary precautions and obey the proper guidelines for operating, maintaining and using your ATV. The "Pennsylvania All-terrain Vehicle Law Summary" brochure can also be referred to for further information.

7 Reduce the Spread of Invasive Plant Species

Invasive plants are not native to this area and due to lack of natural controls, many introduced species spread quickly. Invasives displace native species original to the area, take over natural habitats, and sometimes completely change the ecosystem. To prevent the spread of invasive plants, wash your ATV after every ride. Plant seeds are caught in the tires and in caked-on mud.



8 Be Courteous to Other Users

Always be courteous and friendly to others you meet on the trail. Say hello and announce your intentions before passing others on a trail. In general, downhill traffic always yields to uphill traffic, because uphill traffic may have a difficult time getting started again once it has stopped.

On the Right Trail

On the Right Trail is a concept that encourages all-terrain vehicle (ATV) riders to enjoy the outdoors in a controlled manner to protect the natural resources of our state. The program emphasizes common trail courtesy and respect for the land.

ATV enthusiasts share the outdoors with numerous other recreationists —hikers, equestrians, and mountain bike riders. The importance of common courtesy and knowledge of trail ethics is essential for all to be able to enjoy their outdoor adventure.

Developing and maintaining trail opportunities includes cooperating with private land owners, abiding by travel restrictions, showing courtesy to other people encountered on the trail, and doing everything possible to prevent unnecessary damage to our public lands.

Respecting other users and protecting the land will assure that everyone can enjoy their adventures on our trails.

Failing to protect Pennsylvania's beautiful landscapes is a common reason for closing areas to motorized travel. In order to keep designated trails and areas on public land open for motorized use, it is essential that ATV enthusiasts minimize their impact on the land by riding only on designated trails and respect seasonal trail closures.

Developing a sound land ethic will keep portions of our public lands open to motorized vehicles and will help protect our natural resources for everyone to enjoy.

Motorized travel on designated public ATV trails is a privilege, not a right!