

Frequently Asked Questions

ATV Connectivity Study in the Sproul State Forest

What is the ATV Connectivity Study?

This project is designed to assess the feasibility of a sustainable, designated-use trail connecting the Bloody Skillet ATV Trail in Centre County to the Whiskey Springs ATV Trail System in Clinton County, while also linking to the town of Renovo.

What is the focus of the study?

The study's focus is to determine the feasibility of a direct, environmentally sound and sustainable connector trail between the Bloody Skillet and Whiskey Springs ATV Trail systems. The assessment will:

- Identify the best available route on the ground through the Sproul State Forest, incorporating the town of Renovo;
- Identify and inventory barriers to trail development where they exist;
- Identify, and to the extent possible, observe the expectations and concerns of involved local stakeholders;
- Acknowledge the constraints which the Bureau of Forestry observes to manage state forests in accordance with the State Forest Resource Management Plan.

Why is the study being conducted?

This study is part of a planning effort to assess the possibility of closing an identified trail gap as well as to provide connectivity between two ATV trail systems in the north central region of the state.

Who is conducting it?

Larson Design Group, located in nearby Williamsport, PA, has been retained by DCNR to conduct the feasibility study.

How long will it take?

DCNR expects to receive a report on the feasibility early in 2018. The findings will be made available to the public around that time.

Will there be opportunities for stakeholder and public comment?

First, comments will be obtained in a series of four Stakeholder Meetings conducted in February and March 2017. The invited stakeholder groups include representatives from local municipal and county government; local recreation and tourism organizations; local businesses; motorized recreational user groups; non-motorized recreational user groups; and conservation partners with an interest in the region. The Stakeholder Group data will be used to inform the planning and field work in determining preferred and alternative alignments. After alignments are identified, subsequent informational meetings will be held seeking input from both stakeholders and the general public. These meetings are tentatively scheduled for late summer/early fall of 2017.

How much will the study cost?

The study will cost \$200,764.00

If a suitable route is identified, when will the trail connector be built?

The connector study is simply a feasibility study for any potential trail route. Should a viable route be identified which can connect the target areas in its' entirety, the next phase would be a decision to build the trail, with trail design, planning requirements (i.e. permits), and trail construction following. Given the potential length of an identified, viable corridor, it is likely several different phases of construction will be necessary.

Will the trail be open to other uses or just ATVs?

Though the potential connector trail would connect two state forest ATV trail systems, its' use would be the same as presently observed on ATV trails systems. Refer to

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/recreation/atv/atvplacestoride/index.htm> for details.

I am unable to make any of the public meetings but am still interested in commenting on the trail. How may I do so?

Larson will maintain a website which accepts public comments at any time. This site will be available following the Stakeholder Group meetings.

I am a landowner in this area and concerned my property may be impacted. Who can I talk to regarding this?

Larson Design Group at: <http://www.larsondesigngroup.com/contact/>

How will state and municipal roads impact the proposed alignments?

State and Municipal roads are closed to ATV use unless they have been designated open and properly posted. The proposed alignments will minimize the dependence upon state and municipal roads as much as possible.

How will the decision be made on whether the connector trail will be built or not?

DCNR will make the final decision on whether the new connector trail will be built or not. The decision will be based on the feasibility study results and best identified route in the study. DCNR will also be considering feedback from stakeholders, ability to overcome identified barriers, cooperation of other authorities to open necessary state, municipal, or privately owned roads, and the compatibility of the proposed trail alignment with the management goals of state forest lands and other considerations.

