

# Pennsylvania Snowmobile and ATV Guide



# **Pennsylvania Snowmobile and ATV Guide**

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**For additional copies of this guide,  
call (717) 783-7941. Copies also may be  
downloaded from DCNR's Web site at  
[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/atv/index.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/atv/index.htm)**

**Revised January 2009**

## INTRODUCTION

Pennsylvania has beautiful and challenging landscapes for snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) riding. Many trails have been set up on public and private lands to accommodate these recreational pursuits. This booklet is designed to provide information on registering and riding your ATV or snowmobile in Pennsylvania. By following the rules and guidelines outlined in this book, you can have a great trail experience.

Please remember to respect the environment and the rights of others. The future of ATV and snowmobile riding depends on your actions. Help protect your sport by riding responsibly and thoughtfully.

Enjoy the ride!

### The law

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) administers a registration program as outlined in the state Snowmobile/ATV Law. The law was set up to:

- encourage safe and responsible riding;
- provide funding to develop and maintain trails and parks, provide education, and promote safety; and
- help law enforcement officials curtail illegal riding and identify stolen vehicles.



This law **does not** address dirt bikes, dune buggies, golf carts and other vehicles that could be used off-highway.

This booklet summarizes the highlights of the state Snowmobile/ATV Law and regulations. It is not intended to be an official interpretation of the law or be relied upon as a statement of legal rights and responsibilities.

In addition to state law and regulations, snowmobile and ATV riding on municipal and private property may be further regulated by municipal ordinance.

## **Definitions**

### **ATV**

- Class I ATV - A motorized off-highway vehicle, 50 inches or less in width, having a dry weight of 1,000 pounds or less and traveling on three or more inflatable tires.
- Class II ATV - A motorized off-highway vehicle with a width which exceeds 50 inches or having a dry weight which exceeds 1,000 pounds, traveling on three or more inflatable tires.

### **Snowmobile**

An engine-driven vehicle designed to travel over snow or ice, has an endless belt track or tracks, is steered by a ski or skis and has an overall width of 48 inches or less.



## REGISTRATION, TITLING AND INSURANCE

### Who must register and title?

All ATVs and snowmobiles in Pennsylvania, **except** ATVs used solely for business or agricultural purposes, need to be registered and titled with DCNR. ATVs and snowmobiles used in Pennsylvania must be registered and titled with DCNR's Snowmobile/ATV Section. The ATV and snowmobile registration and titling fees are **NOT** user fees for the privilege of using trails on state-owned land. The fees provide funding to administer the program, maintain trails on DCNR-managed parks and forests, and provide grants to profit and non-profit organizations for developing additional riding opportunities.

Two types of registrations apply:

#### ***Registration***

- For ATVs and snowmobiles used anywhere off of your own property or property leased by you, such as designated state forest trails
- \$20 fee every two years

#### ***Limited registration***

- For ATVs and snowmobiles used solely on your own land or land leased by you
- Free registration
- No expiration, unless ownership of vehicle changes



**Pennsylvania registration is NOT required for:**

- ATVs used exclusively as utility vehicles for agricultural or business operations;
- ATVs and snowmobiles owned by nonresidents covered by a valid registration in their state, province or country that honors Pennsylvania registration;
- ATVs and snowmobiles owned and used by a federal, state or local government body;
- ATVs and snowmobiles owned by a dealer who has been issued a dealer registration certificate and used only in connection with the dealer's business.

**Titling is NOT required for:**

- ATVs used exclusively as utility vehicles for agricultural or business operations;
- Snowmobiles bought or acquired prior to Oct. 23, 2001;
- ATVs and snowmobiles owned and used by a federal, state or local government body;
- ATVs and snowmobiles owned by a dealer before and until sale;
- ATVs and snowmobiles owned by a nonresident;
- ATVs and snowmobiles owned by a Pennsylvania resident, but registered and used in another state.



## **Fees**

- Titling: \$22.50
- Registration: \$20, for a two-year period
- Limited registration: Free
- Replacement of lost or damaged registration certificate, limited registration certificate, registration decal, registration plate or expiration sticker: \$5
- Transfer of registration, same owner, new machine: \$5
- Dealer registration: \$25

## **Plates and decals**

An ATV owner will be issued a registration plate for the vehicle and an expiration sticker to be affixed to the plate. (Limited registrations are not issued an expiration sticker.)

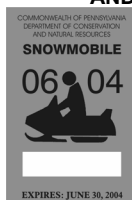
Snowmobile owners will be issued two identical registration decals and two expiration stickers to be affixed to the machine. (Limited registrations are not issued an expiration sticker.)



### ATV REGISTRATION PLATE WITH EXPIRATION STICKER



### SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATION DECAL AND EXPIRATION STICKER



Registration  
Decal



Expiration  
Sticker

## How to register and title your ATV or snowmobile

If you purchase your vehicle at a registered dealer, you will be issued a registration plate with a temporary 45-day expiration sticker (ATVs) or temporary 45-day expiration sticker (snowmobiles). The dealer will handle your application for title and registration.

If you purchase your ATV or snowmobile privately you will need to supply DCNR with:

- Completed application for registration and titling
- Proof of Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)
- Fees
- PA sales tax or proof that tax has been paid

Applications for registration and titling of ATVs and snowmobiles are available from the Snowmobile/ATV Registration Section, ATV and snowmobile dealers, forest district offices, and state park offices. Applications also are available at [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/snowmobile/index.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/snowmobile/index.htm)





The registration and titling application form must be completed and sent to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Snowmobile/ATV Registration Section, P.O. Box 8553, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8553, along with the registration and titling fees and sales tax statement.

### **Liability Insurance**

If you are using your ATV or snowmobile solely on land owned or leased by you, you are not required to get liability insurance. All other riders must carry liability insurance. Proof of that insurance must be carried with you when you ride. There are no minimum requirements or coverage standards established by DCNR or the Snowmobile/ATV Law for the liability insurance.

### **How to transfer title/ownership of your vehicle**

If you are transferring the title of your snowmobile or ATV to a new owner, complete the assignment on the back of the certificate of title and obtain notarization. The new owner must then apply for a new certificate of title and registration in his/her name. **DO NOT REMOVE THE REGISTRATION DECAL OR PLATE FROM THE MACHINE.**

Registration cannot be transferred from one owner to the next. If you no longer need registration because you have disposed of your vehicle in some way, complete the reverse side of your certificate of registration indicating the disposition status, listing buyer's name (if applicable), signing, dating and returning to DCNR within 15 days of disposition.

You may request the remaining months of your current registration be applied to a new registration of another vehicle that you have acquired. The fee for this transaction is \$5.



## Changes of Address

You must notify DCNR's Snowmobile/ATV Section in writing of any change of address within 15 days.

## Summary Chart of Registration, Titling and Insurance Requirements for Snowmobiles and ATVs

TYPE OF VEHICLE AND WHERE USED	REGISTRATION	TITLE	LIABILITY INSURANCE
<b>ATV *</b> Operated off own land	<u>Registration:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$20 (plate)</li> <li>• Good for 2 yrs.</li> </ul>	\$22.50	Required
<b>ATV *</b> Operated <u>solely</u> on one's own land	<u>Limited registration:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free (plate)</li> <li>• No expiration</li> </ul>	\$22.50	Not required
<b>Snowmobile</b> Operated off own land	<u>Registration:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$20 (decals)</li> <li>• Good for 2 yrs.</li> </ul>	\$22.50  NOTE: For people who own vehicle prior to 10/23/01, no title required (grandfathered in).	Required
<b>Snowmobile</b> Operated <u>solely</u> on one's own land	<u>Limited registration:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free (decals)</li> <li>• No expiration</li> </ul>	\$22.50  NOTE: For people who own vehicle prior to 10/23/01, no title required (grandfathered in).	Not required

\* ATVs used exclusively as utility vehicles for agricultural or business operations are exempt from the requirements in this chart.



## OPERATION

### Operation on streets and highways

ATVs and snowmobiles may be operated **only** on streets and highways designated and posted as a snowmobile or ATV road by the government authority having jurisdiction over that road.

An ATV or snowmobile may make a direct crossing of a street or two-lane highway if:

- The crossing is made at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the highway and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing;
- The ATV or snowmobile is brought to a complete stop before crossing the highway;
- The driver yields the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic that constitutes an immediate hazard;
- The crossing of a divided highway is made at an intersection of that highway with another street or highway.

ATVs and snowmobiles may be operated on streets or highways during periods of emergency, if declared by the jurisdiction, or when necessary to cross a bridge or culvert.



## **Operation during special events**

ATVs and snowmobiles may be operated on highways and streets for special events of limited duration approved by the local authority having jurisdiction over those roadways.

## **Operation on private property**

It is illegal to ride your ATV or snowmobile on private property without permission from the landowner.

Riding on private property may be further restricted by municipal ordinance.

## **Operation on state-owned property**

### *Snowmobiles*

Thousands of miles of snowmobile trails and roadways are available on state forest, state park and state game lands. Trails open on state forest and state park lands the day after the last day of Pennsylvania's regular or extended deer season and close April 1, or earlier as determined by the district forester or park manager. State game land trails open on the third Sunday in January and close April 1.

Riders must stay on roads and trails marked open for snowmobiles. Some roadway trails on state forest and state game lands, that are designated for snowmobiles, may also be open to motor vehicles. These joint-use roads are marked with "Caution" signs (see page 20) at all road junctions.

Where snowmobile trails on state forest lands intersect with state forest roads, they are marked with "Snowmobile Trail" signs (see page 20). Between intersections, snowmobile trails are marked with orange diamond reassurance markers (see page 20).



## ATVs

Designated ATV trails on state forest lands are open from the Friday before Memorial Day through the last full weekend in September.

ATV trails are marked with "ATV Trail" signs (see page 21) at access points to the trail system. Between access points, ATV trails are marked with green diamond reassurance markers (see page 21).

Some ATV trails reopen for winter use in conjunction with the snowmobile season from the day following the last day of the regular or extended deer season through April 1, conditions permitting. Check with the district forester to be sure that winter use is permitted. The trail also may be open to snowmobiles.

**Only** Class I ATVs may be operated on state forest trails designated for ATV use. Class II ATVs may be operated on state forest land **ONLY** if the person has been given specific permission from DCNR or the trail is specifically posted open to Class II ATVs of a particular width and weight.

State forest roads are **NOT** open to ATVs. (See page 22 for exception)

State parks and state game lands are **NOT** open to ATVs. (See page 22 for exception.)



## **Riding rules**

To make the use of the trails safe and enjoyable for yourself and others, please:

- Do not disturb, drive, or pursue wildlife with your vehicle
- Riding while carrying a loaded firearm or strung bow on your ATV or snowmobile
- Stay on designated trails and roadways
- Operate your vehicle in a safe and responsible manner
- Place all litter in waste containers, where provided; otherwise practice the "carry-in, carry-out" procedure
- Wear a securely fastened helmet

## **Illegal operation**

Any of these activities may result in a fine or the loss of your registration:

- Riding at a rate of speed that is unreasonable or improper under existing conditions or in excess of the maximum limits posted for vehicular traffic;
- Riding in a careless way so as to endanger the person or property of another, such as riding double on an ATV;
- Riding while carrying a loaded firearm or strung bow on your ATV or snowmobile;



- Riding while under the influence of alcohol, narcotics or drugs;
- Riding in an area, or on a trail or roadway that is not open to ATV or snowmobile use;
- Riding without a securely fastened helmet.

## **Equipment**

### **ATVs**

All ATVs operating in Pennsylvania must be equipped with:

- a brake system capable of producing deceleration of 14 feet per second at a speed of 20 miles per hour;
- a muffler in good working order. The sound intensity produced by an ATV may not exceed 99dbA (decibels), when measured at 20 inches;
- an operating headlight and tail light if operating at dark or when visibility is less than 500 feet. The headlight must produce a white light sufficient to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of 100 feet. The tail light must produce a red light plainly visible during darkness from a distance of 500 feet.



## ***Snowmobiles***

All snowmobiles operating in Pennsylvania must be equipped with:

- a brake system capable of bringing the snowmobile to a stop, under normal conditions, within 40 feet when traveling at 20 miles per hour;
- a muffler in good working order. The sound intensity produced by a snowmobile may not exceed 78dbA;
- an operating headlight and tail light if operating at dark or in poor visibility. The headlight must produce a white light sufficient to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of 100 feet. The tail light must produce a red light plainly visible during darkness from a distance of 500 feet.

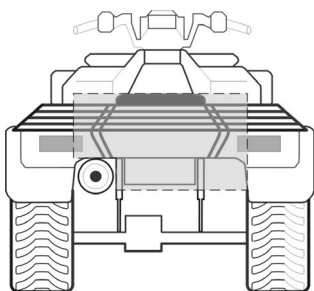




## Plate/Sticker display

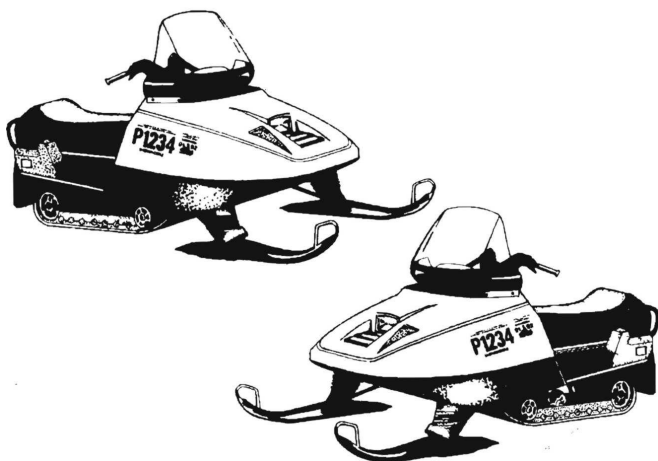
### ATVs

The registration plate for an ATV is provided by the Snowmobile/ATV Section. This registration plate shall be securely attached to the upper half of the rear of the ATV. No part of the plate shall be in line with a tire. The information on the plate must be clearly visible from behind the ATV. It is important to clean mud and dirt off your ATV registration plate at frequent intervals so the information on the plate is clearly visible. The registration sticker must be placed in a bottom corner of the plate.



## **Snowmobiles**

The two snowmobile registration decals shall be affixed to the snowmobile forward of the handlebars, one on each side of the cowling, or one on the outside of each trailing edge of the windshield. An expiration sticker shall be affixed to the immediate right of each decal.



## **Liability insurance**

If you are using your ATV or snowmobile solely on land owned or leased by you, you do not have to get liability insurance. All other riders must carry liability insurance. Proof of that insurance must be carried with you when you ride. There are no minimum requirements or coverage standards established by the law for the liability insurance.



## What you need while riding

While riding your ATV or snowmobile you must carry with you or on the vehicle:

- Certificate of registration
- Proof of liability insurance
- Registration plate (ATV) or decals (snowmobile) affixed to the vehicle
- Expiration stickers (does not apply to limited registration)
- Valid safety certificate (ages 8-15 for ATVs or 10-15 for snowmobiles if riding off of parent's or guardian's property)

## Where to ride

*Know before you go.* It's important you know what lands you will be riding on and if they have designated trails for ATV or snowmobile use. Contact the appropriate land management agency noted or listed at the end of this booklet, to find out what trails are open.

Generally speaking, ATVs and snowmobiles may be operated (see **Youth operation**, page 19, for restrictions on child operators of snowmobiles and ATVs):

- On private property with the consent of the owner (riding on private property may be further restricted by municipal ordinance);



- On state-owned property on clearly marked and designated trails;
- On highways and streets when necessary to cross a bridge or culvert.
- On highways and streets during periods of emergency when so declared by a governmental agency having jurisdiction;
- On highways and streets for special events of limited duration that are conducted according to a prearranged schedule under permit from the governmental unit having jurisdiction;
- On streets and highways that have been designated as an ATV or snowmobile road by the government authority having jurisdiction. (Note that use of ATVs and snowmobiles on local roads may be further regulated by municipal ordinance.)

### **Where NOT to ride**

- Private property without the consent of the owner (riding on private property may be further restricted by municipal ordinance)
- State forest trails not designated for ATVs or snowmobiles
- ATVs: state forest roads, state game lands (see pages 22-23 for exception), state parks
- On municipal or state-owned roads or streets that are not designated open to ATVs or snowmobiles



## Youth operation

It is prohibited for a child **under 16** \* to:

- Operate anywhere other than land owned or leased by a parent or guardian unless the child has a valid safety certificate or is under the direct supervision of a certified instructor during a certified safety training course.
- Operate across highways or connecting streets or operate on state park or state forest roads designated for joint use (use by both motor vehicles and snowmobiles or ATVs) unless the child has a valid safety certificate and is under the direct supervision of a person 18 years of age or older.
- Drive on state or local highways, roads or streets designated for joint use.

\*A child **under 8** (ATV) or **10** (snowmobile) is not eligible for a safety certificate and is prohibited from operating anywhere except private property.

Children 8-9 years old may not operate ATVs with engines larger than 70 cc.



## Signage

All ATV and snowmobile trails on state forest lands are designated with signs. Stay on the marked trail.

Roads for joint use by snowmobiles and motor vehicles are marked with "Caution" signs at all road junctions. Intersections between snowmobile trails and state forest roads are marked with "Snowmobile Trail" signs. Between intersections, snowmobile trails are marked with orange diamond reassurance markers. State game lands snowmobile trails also are marked with orange diamonds.



"Caution" Sign  
red/black letters



"Snowmobile Trail" Sign  
orange dashes



Orange Diamond  
Reassurance Marker



ATV trails are marked with "ATV Trail" signs at access points to the trail system. Between access points, ATV trails are marked with green diamond reassurance markers.



"ATV Trail" Sign  
black letters/yellow background



Green Diamond  
Reassurance Marker

All municipal and state-owned roadways open to ATV and snowmobile use are designated with the following signs. These are 24" x 24" with a white silhouette against a dark green background.



## **ATV operation for people with disabilities**

### ***State forest lands***

DCNR allows a person with disabilities who has a Pennsylvania Game Commission lifetime permit to use a vehicle as a blind to use an ATV on designated State Forest roads.

In addition, DCNR allows a person with disabilities to operate an ATV in designated areas of state forest land with a letter of authorization from DCNR. Most of these areas are open year round. If the person wishes to engage in hunting from his or her ATV, a permit to hunt from a vehicle as well as a valid hunting license is needed from the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

### ***State game lands***

The Pennsylvania Game Commission allows disabled hunters who possess a special permit from the Game Commission to hunt from a vehicle to use an ATV on designated state game land roads. Roads are open for use by permitted persons from 14 days prior to the opening day of the hunting season to the closing day of the hunting season.

The ATV used on state game land roads must be registered with DCNR and be covered by liability insurance.





ATVs operated by disabled hunters are defined by Game Commission regulations as a motorized off-highway vehicle 58 inches or less in width, having a dry weight of 900 pounds or less traveling on four or more low-pressure tires and having a bench seat.



## SAFETY AND TRAINING

ATV and snowmobile riding can be risky sports. Before you ride, learn how to properly use all the mechanical controls and safety devices of your vehicle. Read your owner's manual. Most importantly, take a safety course before riding.

### Safety Tips

- Wear a helmet and eye protection at all times and other protective clothing suitable to the environment.
- Do not carry passengers on your ATV.
- Do not let young or inexperienced riders operate ATVs or snowmobiles without training and supervision.
- Do not use alcohol or other drugs when you ride.
- Learn proper riding skills from an instructor or qualified rider and practice such skills before riding.
- Always maintain a safe distance between riders. Tailgating can lead to collisions and injuries.
- Ride with others and let someone know where you are riding. Never ride alone.
- Obey the laws.
- Stay on trails designated for ATVs and snowmobiles.



- Be informed of local weather conditions and dress and equip yourself appropriately.
- Know the area you are riding in. Be aware of its potential hazards.
- Always ride at a safe and responsible speed. Know your abilities and don't exceed those levels.
- Make sure your equipment is in top working order; check before heading out.
- Carry a map of the trail or area you intend to travel.
- Clear snow dust off your snowmobile tail lights at frequent intervals.
- Use common sense.

### **Reporting Accidents**

If you are involved in an accident that results in the injury or death of any person, or property damages to the estimated amount of \$100 or more, you must report the matter in writing within seven days to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, PO Box 8552, Harrisburg, PA 17105. It is a violation of the Snowmobile/ATV Law not to report an accident.

If involved in an accident, you must stop and give your name and address, the name and address of the owner of the vehicle and its registration number to the other person(s) involved in the accident or to a police officer.



Accident forms are available upon request from the Snowmobile/ATV Section, Bureau of Forestry, Bureau of State Parks and State Police stations.

You can be held liable for injuries or death or damage to property resulting from the negligent use of your vehicle.

### **Where to get training**

Inexperienced riders are much more likely to be involved in serious accidents. Always read your vehicle's owner's manual and all warning labels. DCNR oversees a training and safety program for ATV and snowmobile riding. It is recommended that all new users of snowmobiles and ATVs take an approved safety course before riding their vehicles. Those successfully completing an approved course will be provided a safety certificate.

DCNR authorizes the training of safety instructors. For more information on a safety instructor near you, call DCNR's Bureau of Forestry at (717) 783-7941.

### ***ATV training***

DCNR has approved the safety course offered by the ATV Safety Institute (ASI), a nonprofit division of the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA) formed in 1988 to implement an expanded national program of ATV safety education and awareness. ASI's primary goal is to promote the safe and responsible use of ATVs, thereby reducing accidents and injuries that may result from improper ATV operation by the rider. For more information call the ATV Safety Institute at 800-887-2887.



## ***Snowmobile Training***

Call the Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association at 888-411-PSSA for qualified instructors near you.

## **Youth safety and training**

Each year, hundreds of youth are involved in ATV and snowmobile accidents, some resulting in death. While riding these vehicles is fun, it also can be very dangerous. Because of a child's leg and arm length, hand size, and strength, it is often difficult for children to properly control an adult-sized vehicle. Children driving ATVs and snowmobiles should always be under the direct supervision of a responsible adult.

### ***Keep in mind:***

- Children often emulate parental behavior; set good examples.
- Children often underestimate the danger and risk because of inexperience.
- Children often overestimate their skill level.

It is mandatory that all youth take an approved ATV (ages 8-15) or snowmobile (ages 10-15) training course if they are planning to use their vehicle off of their parent's or guardian's property.



**No child under the age of 8 (ATV) or 10 (snowmobile) is allowed to operate an ATV on public lands. No child under the age of 10 is allowed to operate a snowmobile on public land.**

For information on youth training, call DCNR's Bureau of Forestry at (717) 783-7941, the ATV Safety Institute at 800-887-2887, or the Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association at 888-411-PSSA.



## **PROTECTING THE TRAILS, ENVIRONMENT AND RIGHTS OF OTHERS**

Every ATV and snowmobile rider must be an ambassador for the sports. Please give careful consideration to your effect on the trails, environment and others. The future of your sport depends on it.

### **Minimizing environmental impact**

Every effort should be made to minimize the impact of your machine on the trail and surrounding environment. Using skill and common sense you can negotiate various obstacles and riding conditions that have the potential to cause damage. Remember, areas closed to ATVs and snowmobiles are done so for a reason; please respect these special areas.

The following are some suggestions offered by Tread Lightly!®, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the outdoors and outdoor recreation through responsible practices:

#### **ATVs**

- Stay on designated roads and trails or other areas open for use.
- Avoid "spooking" livestock and wildlife you encounter.
- Cross streams at designated crossings only.
- Use existing campsites whenever possible; avoid building fires.



- Cross obstacles at an angle, one wheel at a time.
- Don't straddle large rocks.
- Avoid mud if you can while remaining on the road or trail.
- Turn into ravines or large depressions at about a 45-degree angle.
- Straddle ruts, even if they are wider than your vehicle. This will keep your vehicle level.
- Lower the tire pressure to where you see a bulge in your tire to give you better traction and provide for a smoother ride.
- Avoid riding the brakes and clutch which can lead to brake failure.

### **Snowmobiles**

- Pump your brakes when going downhill to avoid locking the brakes.
- Lean into turns with your upper body to enhance the sled's maneuverability.
- Avoid riding on frozen lakes or other waterways.
- Cross roadways at a 90-degree angle to the road.





## **Trail etiquette**

Many times ATV and snowmobile riders will come in contact with other user groups sharing the same lands, roadways or trails. It is important to practice common courtesies.

- Be considerate of others on the trail and keep to the right.
- Slow down when passing.
- Ride only where permitted.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Yield the right of way to bikes, horses and hikers.
- Carry out what you carry in.
- Wave and say 'hello' as you pass.
- Report downed trees and trail maintenance needs to land managers

## **Report illegal riding**

If you see someone riding irresponsibly, off-trail or dangerously, try to record the machine's registration number. Report the activity to the local authority with jurisdiction over those lands. (See page 43 for contact information). Remember, bad behavior by some individuals can harm the reputation of the entire sport.



## **ENFORCEMENT**

### **Fines**

Failure to register your snowmobile or ATV or abide by the rules can be costly. First offenses range from \$50 to \$200 plus the cost of prosecution. A second offense carries a fine of \$100 to \$300 plus the cost of prosecution. Failure to register your vehicle or failure to have liability insurance is an automatic \$300 fine plus cost of prosecution.

### **Law enforcement agency responsibility**

All law enforcement officers in the state, including local and state police, are authorized to enforce the Snowmobile/ATV Law. In general:

- State forest and state park lands – DCNR Rangers and other state forest officers
- State game lands – Wildlife Conservation Officers and Deputy WCOs
- Municipal and state roadways – municipal and state police
- Private property – municipal and state police

You must stop when signaled by a law enforcement officer. Failure to do so could result in fines and loss of your registration.



## PLACES TO RIDE

### ATVs

#### State Forests

##### *Summer Trails*

These trails are open from the Friday before Memorial Day through the last full weekend in September:

**Bedford County**, Martin Hill - 18 miles of summer trail. Access to the trail is from the parking area located on Route 326 two miles south of Rainsburg. Contact: Buchanan State Forest, 440 Buchanan Trail, McConnellsburg, PA 17233 Phone: (717) 485-3148

**Fulton County**, Sideling Hill, 15 miles of summer trail in the Wells Tannery area. Access is from Ray's Cove Road or Childers Ridge Road. Contact: Buchanan State Forest, 440 Buchanan Trail, McConnellsburg, PA 17233 Phone: (717) 485-3148

**Monroe County**, Pohopoco Tract, 13 miles of summer trails. Access is from Route 115 five miles south of I-80. Contact: Delaware State Forest, HC 1 Box 95A, Swiftwater, PA 18370 Phone: (570) 895-4000.

**Pike County**, Maple Run Tract, 7 miles of summer trail. Access is from a parking area on Route 402 1-3/4 miles north of the village of Pecks Pond. Contact: Delaware State Forest, HC 1 Box 95A, Swiftwater, PA 18370 Phone: (570) 895-4000.

**Potter County**, 43 miles of summer trail. A loop trail located south of Denton Hill State Park. Access to the trail is from Lyman Run State Park or the Lyman Run Road east of the former Potatoe City Airfield. Contact: Susquehannock State Forest, PO



Box 673, Coudersport, PA 16915 Phone: (814) 274-7459.

**Snyder & Union counties**, 7 miles of summer trails. Access is at the parking area located along Route 235 three miles south of Glen Iron. The trail includes the East Kettle Road which has been closed to other types of motor vehicles. Contact: Bald Eagle State Forest, Box 147, Laurelton, PA 17835 Phone: (570) 922-3344.

#### *Summer and Winter Trails*

These trails are open during the summer and winter seasons. The summer season runs from the Friday before Memorial Day through the last full weekend in September. The winter season runs from the day following the last day of the regular or extended deer season in December as established by the Game Commission through the following April 1, or earlier as determined by the district forester.

**Adams & Cumberland counties**, 36 miles of summer trail. During the winter season the trail system is expanded to 41 miles by using some dirt roads that are gated during the winter. Part of the trail system is shared with snowmobiles when there is sufficient snowfall. The trail is located between Big Flat and Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Access to these are from parking lots located at Big Flat along Shippensburg Road about 1-1/4 miles north of its intersection with Route 233 and on Piney Mountain along Bendersville Road south of Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Contact: Michaux State Forest, 10099 Lincoln Way East, Fayetteville, PA 17222 Phone: (717) 352-2211.



**Clinton County**, 65 miles of summer and winter trail. Access to the 45-mile Whiskey Springs riding area is from the Two Miles Road 1-1/2 miles west of Westport toward Kettle Creek State Park. The Bloody Skillet riding area, located in Centre County, is accessed from SR 144 about 18.5 miles north of Snow Shoe. Contact: Sproul State Forest, 15187 Renovo Road, Renovo, PA 17764 Phone: (570) 923-6011.

**Lycoming County**, 17 miles of summer and winter trails. Trails are located near Haneyville and include the Button Road and Jack Martin Trail. Access to the trail is from Zinck Fork Road where it intersects the Button Road, from a parking area located at the CCC Camp along Route 44 and from Route 414 one mile south of Jersey Mills. Contact: Tiadaghton State Forest, 423 East Central Avenue, South Williamsport, PA 17702 Phone: (570) 327-3450.

**Pike County**, Burnt Mills, 8 miles of summer and winter trail. Access is from a parking area on Route 402 one mile south of Porters Lake. Contact: Delaware State Forest, HC 1 Box 95A, Swiftwater, PA 18370 Phone: (570) 895-4000.

### **State Game Lands**

ATVs are not permitted on state game lands except those used by disabled hunters. (see page 22)



## **Allegheny National Forest**

The federally-operated Allegheny National Forest has more than 100 miles of ATV trails. ATV trail season runs from the Friday before Memorial Day through the last Sunday in September, winter season is from December 20-April 1. Contact the Allegheny National Forest Supervisor's Office, P.O. Box 847, 222 Liberty Street, Warren, PA 16365. (814) 723-5150. Effective July 1, 2002, the Allegheny National Forest implemented the Fee Demo Program for ATV and motorized bike trails. An annual \$35 permit fee is required, and can be purchased from any Allegheny National Forest office, and some local vendors, or online at [www.fs.fed.us/r9/allegheny](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/allegheny).

**Marienville ATV/Bike Trail** on State Route 66 east of the town of Marienville.

**Timberline ATV Trail**, accessed from State Route 948, north of Ridgway (also connects to the Marienville ATV Trail).

**Rocky Gap ATV Trail**, accessed from Township Road 3005, southeast of Warren.

**Willow Creek ATV Trail** on the eastern side of the Allegheny Reservoir, just south of the New York State line. Closed during the winter season.

## **Private and other public trail opportunities**

Many other ATV riding opportunities exist across the state on public lands and local municipalities. Contact the local Tourist Promotion Agency, ATV clubs, dealers or county governments to find out more about your region of interest.



## ***Snowmobiles***

### **State Parks and Forests**

State parks and forests offer thousands of miles and hundreds of acres of designated snowmobile areas for exploration. Opportunities range from scenic trails through the woods, to straightaway runs on roadways, to large, open spaces. State parks also provide trailhead access to snowmobile trails on state forest land. Trails open the day after the last day of Pennsylvania's regular or extended rifle deer season and close April 1, or earlier as determined by the district forester or park manager. A complete listing of snowmobile trails on state-owned lands is available at <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/recreation/snow>. You may also call 888-PA-PARKS for a copy of the printed publication. During the season, DCNR operates a snowmobile hotline updating snow and trail conditions twice a week. Call toll-free 877-SNOMBLE before you head out.

### **State Game Lands**

State game lands offer about 417 miles of snowmobile trails. The season runs from the third Sunday in January to April 1.

### **Allegheny National Forest**

Hundreds of miles of snowmobile trails are open in the 513,000 acre Allegheny National Forest. Trails are open mid-December through April 1, conditions permitting. Contact the Allegheny National Forest Supervisor's Office, P.O. Box 847, 222 Liberty Street, Warren, PA 16365, (814) 723-5150.



### **Private and Other Public Trail Opportunities**

Many private and local snowmobile riding opportunities exist across the state. Contact the local Tourist Promotion Agency to found out more about your region of interest, or the Pennsylvania Snowmobile Association at 888-411-PSSA.





## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

### **ATV/Snowmobile club information**

Many local clubs and organizations have formed to promote ATV and snowmobile riding across the state. To find out about the nearest organization near you, contact the Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association at 1-888-411-PSSA or the Pennsylvania Off-Highway Vehicle Association (PaOHV) at [www.paohv.org](http://www.paohv.org).

### **DCNR grant opportunities**

DCNR can use money from fees and fines collected to award grants to municipalities and organizations (profit and nonprofit) for snowmobile and ATV use on lands not owned by the Commonwealth. Grants may be used to buy land; develop plans and surveys; construct and maintain snowmobile and ATV trails and parks; buy equipment; and conduct training relating to snowmobile and ATV use. The grant application period typically is open from August through October of each year, with grants awarded early in the year. For more information on how to apply for a grant, contact (717) 783-2661 or log on to [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/grants](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/grants)

### **Volunteer opportunities**

DCNR has an extensive Conservation Volunteer Program where thousands of volunteers each year help improve Pennsylvania State Parks and State Forests. From maintaining trails, to planting trees, these volunteers donate a little of their time to give back something to the lands they enjoy. ATV and snowmobile enthusiasts are among this vast volunteer base. If you would like to learn more



about volunteer opportunities on state park and state forest lands, contact your local state park or state forest district.

### **Snowmobile/ATV Advisory Committee**

The Snowmobile/ATV law established a 17-member advisory committee that advises DCNR on matters concerning the implementation of the Snowmobile/ATV Law. The Committee works to establish priority issues for the ATV and snowmobile communities.



## **DEALERS**

### **Responsibilities**

A person who sells ATVs or snowmobiles in Pennsylvania must be registered with the DCNR as a dealer. A dealer pays \$25 to register and in return receives an annual dealer registration certificate containing a dealer registration number and expiration date, along with three dealer plates and cards.

A registered dealer must display the DCNR-issued registration certificate at the place of business.

An ATV or snowmobile used by a dealer in conjunction with the business must display a valid dealer registration plate. The dealer vehicle can only be used for the purpose of demonstration or testing in connection with the dealership.

### **What to expect from a dealer**

A dealer can process your registration and titling application, along with fees and any other paperwork, with DCNR. By law, the application must be submitted to DCNR within 15 days from the date of purchase. A dealer's registration can be suspended or revoked if the dealer does not comply with this requirement.

A reputable dealer should provide you with operational instructions for the vehicle; instructions on where to obtain safety training; and places you can legally ride your vehicle.



## **Where to direct consumer complaints**

If you believe you have been treated unfairly, or suspect unfair business practices, report your experiences to the state Office of Attorney General or to DCNR (see contact information on page 43)

### **Vehicle Board**

The State Board of Vehicle Manufacturers, Dealers and Salespersons (Vehicle Board) regulates the licensing of ATV dealers. This is in addition to the registration of dealers by DCNR. The Vehicle Board, located in the Pennsylvania Department of State's Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, investigates complaints against dealers. For more information, see the contact information on page 46.



## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

### **Registration and Titling**

Snowmobile/ATV Section  
PO Box 8553  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8553  
1-866-545-2476  
(717) 783-9227  
Email: [snowatv@state.pa.us](mailto:snowatv@state.pa.us)  
[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)

### **ATV and Snowmobile Trails and State Law**

Bureau of Forestry  
Recreation Section  
PO Box 8552  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552  
(717) 783-7941  
Email: [forestrecreation@state.pa.us](mailto:forestrecreation@state.pa.us)  
[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)

### **Pennsylvania State Parks**

P.O. Box 8551  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8551  
888-PA-PARKS  
Email: [parkinfo@state.pa.us](mailto:parkinfo@state.pa.us)  
[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)



## **State Game Lands**

The Pennsylvania Game Commission  
Bureau of Land Management  
2001 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797  
(717) 787-9612  
[www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us)

## **Allegheny National Forest**

222 Liberty Street  
Warren, PA 16365  
(814) 723-5150  
Email: [r9\\_allegheny\\_nf@fs.fed.us](mailto:r9_allegheny_nf@fs.fed.us)  
[www.fs.fed.us/r9/allegheny/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/allegheny/)

## **Pennsylvania Off-Highway Vehicle Association (PaOHV)**

[www.paohv.org](http://www.paohv.org)

## **PA State Snowmobile Association**

PO Box 81  
Annville, PA. 17003  
(888)-411-PSSA  
[www.pasnow.org](http://www.pasnow.org)

## **ATV Safety Institute**

(949) 887-2887  
[www.atvsafety.org](http://www.atvsafety.org)



## **National ATV Association**

All-Terrain Vehicle Association  
P.O. Box 800  
Pickerington, Ohio 43147  
1-866-ATVA-JOIN or 1-866-288-2564  
[www.atvonline.com](http://www.atvonline.com)

## **PA Snowmobile/ATV Advisory Committee**

(717) 772-9087  
[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)

## **PA Tourism and Lodging Council**

128 Walnut Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
(717) 232-8880  
Email: [info@patourism.org](mailto:info@patourism.org)  
[www.patourism.org](http://www.patourism.org)

## **Consumer Complaints**

State Office of the Attorney General Consumer  
Protection Hotline  
800-441-2555

## **ATV and Snowmobile Grants**

DCNR  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building  
P.O. Box 8475  
Harrisburg, PA 17105  
(717) 772-3319  
[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/grants](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/grants)



**State Board of Vehicle Manufacturers, Dealers  
and Salespersons (Vehicle Board)**

P.O. Box 2649  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649  
(717)783-1697  
vehicle@pados.state.pa.us  
[www.dos.state.pa.us/bpoa](http://www.dos.state.pa.us/bpoa)







**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**  
**Edward G. Rendell, Governor**

**Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Michael DiBerardinis, Secretary**

**[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)**