



New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

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Connecting People With Nature

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Trail Conference Kicks Off Online Campaign: “Speak Out for ATV Legislation - Protect Our Parks & Trails!”

<http://actionnetwork.org/campaign/njatv>

According to NJ's Department of Environmental Protection, about 343,000 acres of state park, forest and wilderness have been damaged as a result of illegal ATV riding.

Mahwah, NJ – The Trail Conference has launched an online campaign targeting Governor Jon Corzine, urging him to support comprehensive ATV legislation.

Currently, you can purchase an ATV, leave the dealer and never buy insurance, register the vehicle or complete a license/training course. Comprehensive legislation is needed to close these loopholes, require automobile-size license plate tags, and levy hefty fines for ATV trespassing.

The Department of Environmental Protection is apparently committed to opening several ATV “parks” throughout the state. While the Trail Conference supports the creation of facilities where ATV riding is permitted, any ATV facilities should be created with full public disclosure, should be on lands purchased for ATV use - not existing parklands, should conform to strict environmental site standards, and should **be created after or along with the adoption of legislation that treats ATVs as motor vehicles.**

“Illegal ATV riding is the number one threat to our parks, and we are asking our members to contact the Governor to make comprehensive ATV legislation a top priority. This legislation is long overdue, and will provide law enforcement officials the legal tools they need to begin to get control of this ever-growing problem,” said Dennis Schvejda, Advocacy Director.

NOTE: The Trail Conference sponsored an “Off-Road Vehicle on State Land Symposium” in 2002. Visit <http://www.nynjtc.org/issues/2002/ORV%20Symposium.html> for the symposium notes.

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a federation of more than 100 hiking clubs and conservation organizations and 10,000 individuals dedicated to building and maintaining marked hiking trails and protecting related open space in the bi-state region. Our constituent clubs have a combined membership of over 150,000.