

October 7, 2022

To The Tunbridge Selectboard,

The Tunbridge Conservation Commission has spent time looking at the issue of ATV use on Class IV roads, and researching and discussing the proposed Tunbridge ATV Ordinance. As a result of those efforts, we advise the Selectboard with the recommendation below.

**The Tunbridge Conservation Commission recommends that no recreational ATV usage ordinance be approved at this time due to the impact on wildlife, woodland, wetland and road conditions.**

- ATVs and off-road vehicles offer access to resource areas that are typically less accessible to people and more remote. (Reference 1, page 4)
- ATV travel can alter animal behavior relative to more traditional forms of off-road recreation due to the distances motorized vehicles can travel in a single day. Direct mortality, habitat fragmentation and alteration of animal behavior can result. (Reference 2 and Reference 3, page 24, 25)
- ATV use has been found to widen and rut forest roads. This can increase the sediment load to streams, which may threaten the ecology of our streams, especially fisheries. (Reference 1, page 4 and Reference 3, page 7, 8)
- Invasive species are carried further into wild spaces. (Reference 2 and Reference 3, pages 11, 12, 26)

**References:**

1) *Environmental and Social Effects of ATVs and ORVs: An Annotated Bibliography and Research Assessment*  
<https://fdocuments.net/document/environmental-and-social-effects-of-atvs-and-orvs-an-and-social-effects-of.html?page=1>

Patricia A. Stokowski, Ph.D. and Christopher B. LaPointe  
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2) *Why All-Terrain Vehicles and Wildlife Do Not Mix*

Adirondack Council website

<https://www.adirondackcouncil.org/page/blog-139/news/why-all-terrain-vehicles-and-wildlife-do-not-mix-965.html>

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

By: Kevin Chlad - Adirondack Council Director of Government Relations

3) *Cumulative and Universal: ATV Impacts on the Landscape and Wildlife*

*A Review of the Literature on the Subject*

[https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/backcountryhunters/pages/2374/attachments/original/1455919275/ORV\\_WHITE\\_PAPER.pdf?1455919275](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/backcountryhunters/pages/2374/attachments/original/1455919275/ORV_WHITE_PAPER.pdf?1455919275)

Prepared by: Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

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In closing, we would be happy to provide you with hard copies of any of the resources used to inform our recommendation, or to answer any questions it raises.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Members of the Tunbridge Conservation Commission

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*Betsy Gaiser, chair*

*Jory Innes*

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