

Dana Jones
Caribou

I support LD-1439

The vehicles that are being sold and driven on the trails in Maine are NOT what these trails are intended for. The trails do not provide a safe place to go at high speeds. These (non ATV) vehicles are too large for the intended purpose of family leisure riding. There are too many natural blind spots for accidents to happen. When encountering said vehicles from head on, there is no place to get away from these high speed occurrences without going over an embankment or striking a tree head on when trying to avoid a collision from happening. I have had to drive into the woods MANY MANY times to keep from getting hit and causing damage to my ATV from impacting a tree or the like. These oncoming vehicles never stop to see if you are ok because they know what they are doing is wrong! The repairs would have caused my insurance premiums to rise because of these claims! Therefor I paid for the repairs from my own pocket that someone else caused so as to avoid these increased premiums which I did, TWICE! I have been riding these trails since the mid 60's. My brother and I blazed many as pre teen boys looking to take rides in the woods as a summer time activity. These trails were/are for family outings/ rides to do together to get out of the everyday stresses that life brings. They bring families together for bonding with nature and healing too. I encourage you to pass LD-1439 and stop these "dune buggy an Jeep type" vehicles from taking over our sacred ATV trails. I understand the costs of maintaining trails is expensive, although I don't like to see registrations go up, I do see a need for generating funds to maintain these trails, I don't like to see them get wider than they already are but needs to be maintained regardless. I support the increased registration fees but NOT widening the trails.. Safety is a main concern on the trails because if something were to happen it is quite an endeavor to get to medical care.

I support limiting the width (65" Max) and weight limits (2000lbs MAX) of the vehicles that use these trails. I would also like to see law enforcement making more appearances on these trails to help curb unsafe practices. In my 3500 average miles per season, I have only encountered 1 Officer and he just waved me thru, which is fine but there needs to be more appearances!!

Regards

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