



# Responsible Trails America

Supporting common-sense off-road vehicle law enforcement and management practices.

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## Ohio



### Recent Legislative Action

2009

HB2: Requires visible decals or plates on all ORVs and permits ORV fund revenues to be spent on law enforcement and safety programs (4/1/09: Signed in to law)  
HB1: Includes snowmobiles and off-road motorcycles to HB 2's private property trespass penalties. (7/17/09: Signed in to law)

### Community Voices Demand Action in Ohio

Ohioans are increasingly voicing their concerns about a growing contingent of reckless riders who break the law, damage public and private land, injure themselves

and others, and ruin hunting, fishing and hiking experiences for the rest of us.

- "ATVs have an abysmal record in Ohio's public forests. Although permits are required and rules say riders must stay on trails, observe safety rules and avoid damage to the land, riders routinely go off-trail, ripping up hillsides and hastening erosion. They blast through creeks, fouling the water. Loud ATV engines scare off wildlife and disturb hikers and birders. ATV riders also have a history of ignoring private-property signs and riding onto adjoining private forests, continuing the damage there...Many riders are law-abiding, but the bad actors have done harm that might be irreparable." -- The Columbus Dispatch Editorial Board, "Watch the woods", *The Columbus Dispatch* (4/3/09)
- "They are starting to ride on the hill and we need to stop this. It's causing ruts and killing the vegetation...That can get expensive." -- Tom Hitchcock, St. Marys Safety-Service Director, "ATVs causing issues", *The Evening Leader* (3/3/09)
- "Trespassing has been a problem, especially ATVs tearing up the property." -- Jeff Rennie, spokesman for America Electric Power, "Thrill of hunt expands; Deer season to get boost with added 10,000 acres in southern Ohio", *Cleveland Plain Dealer* (11/22/08)
- "The lack of common-sense state law to encourage the safe use of all-terrain vehicles is hard to justify...Manufacturers make a number of safety recommendations...But many ATV riders ignore those recommendations. Free training offered by industry groups and organizations such as Ohio State University's Extension office attracts relatively few takers...Just as state law requires training to drive a car and mandates the use of seat belts, it should require training for anyone riding an ATV and, at minimum, mandate that children riding ATVs wear helmets...ignoring the most elemental protection for Ohio's children is folly." -- Columbus Dispatch Editorial Board, "Common sense; Growing injury toll from ATVs shows lawmakers should require basic safety", *The Columbus Dispatch* (10/8/08)
- "We've had steadily increasing numbers of [court cases involving ORV misuse]. It's a real problem." -- Judge Mark Repp, Tiffin Municipal Court Judge, "ATV misues rising", *The Adviser-Tribune* (5/5/08)
- "You can be in the house with the windows closed and not be able to hear the TV... Though residents called deputies, there was no law being broken... We really had no recourse to be able to stop this." -- Paula Goetz, of Rose Petal, "ATV riders subject to fines", *The Cincinnati Enquirer* (9/19/07)
- "It was determined that there are some real problems throughout Boone County as it relates to ATV usage." -- Tim Williams, Assistant County Administrator, "ATV noise fines proposed", *The Cincinnati Enquirer* (8/22/07)

### Examples of Recent ORV-Related Law Enforcement Activity

Source: United States Forest Service  
2008

- On 6/13, LEI, Ohio DNR, and Lawrence County SD personnel participated in a special detail at Timber Ridge Lake on the Ironton RD to address reports of illegal ATV use and parties in the area. As a result of their efforts, five drug-related and three littering citations were issued.
- Wayne NF - In March 2007, LEI was notified that the Washington County SD responded to a shooting at the Haught Run CG on the Athens RD. Two campers (a father and son), armed with a shotgun and a .22 caliber pistol confronted a group of illegal ATV riders because of the noise they were making. An intoxicated individual in the ATV group struck the son. The father shot the ATV rider in the abdomen with the pistol. The father was arrested and charged with felonious assault. The son was arrested and charged with tampering with evidence. Both stood trial in the Washington County Courthouse. In March, the son was convicted on 1 count of

### STATE BY STATE MOMENTUM

Between 2007 and 2008, 39 states have considered 78 pieces of legislation dealing with reckless riders, including: supporting law enforcement, protecting hunting and fishing, stopping private property damage, and improving safety. View State by State Momentum in Action

Alabama

### COMMUNITY VOICES

"Just walking our dog has been dangerous when they fly by at 50 miles an hour,"  
-- Amy D'Angelo, lives along the Hojack trail, "ATV club seeks access to county trail", *The Citizen* (1/21/10)

tampering with evidence and sentenced to serve 180 days in jail. On 5/30, the father was convicted on two counts of felonious assault and sentenced to serve two years in jail.

2007

- Wayne NF - On 9/1, a man from Marion, OH was apparently shot in the leg at an FS ORV area. The victim was met by a Lawrence County SD deputy and escorted to a nearby hospital. The man refused treatment and was released from the hospital. The man's fiancée later told an LEO that the shooting was the result of an altercation that took place with unidentified campers at the Hanging Rock ORV area on the Ironton RD. The altercation involved intoxicated individuals who attempted to use a hatchet and an ATV to strike one of them. There are no identified witnesses to the shooting.
- Wayne NF - On 9/1, a female passenger was ejected off an ATV and hit a tree at the Hanging Rock ORV area on the Ironton RD. A Lawrence County SD Deputy responded to the incident. The woman was transported to a local hospital with facial injuries. The driver was arrested on a warrant for a parole violation.

### Recent ORV-Related Media Coverage

## ATV Riders Cited On Highway

Written by Associated Press  
Sunday, January 10, 2010

DAYTON, Ohio -- Four people were cited for riding all terrain vehicles on State Route 4 north of Stanley Avenue and private property just off the highway, Dayton Police said. Five people were seen riding ATVs, but one person fled before police arrived.

[Read more... \[ATV Riders Cited On Highway\]](#)

## Police recover stolen ATV after off-road chase, but suspects get away

Written by The Star Beacon  
Thursday, November 05, 2009

Margie Trax Page  
GENEVA — Two unknown suspects eluded Geneva police on a stolen all-terrain vehicle Tuesday night, Geneva police reports show.  
The low-speed mostly off-road chase, which ended after a police cruiser became stuck in the mud, began when Sgt. Joseph Webb saw the men driving the yellow four-wheeler down Kiwanis Park Drive at 9:20 p.m. and initiated a traffic stop, police reports show.

[Read more... \[Police recover stolen ATV after off-road chase, but suspects get away\]](#)

## Judge denies permit for ATV park in Pike

Written by Canton Repository  
Thursday, October 29, 2009

Malcom Hall  
PIKE TWP. — A land owner's desire to create a park for motor bike riding cannot — so far — get into motion as a Stark County judge rendered an unfavorable ruling.  
Stark County Common Pleas Judge Frank Forchione has upheld a Pike Township Board of Zoning Appeals' decision to deny a conditional use permit to property owner Matthew Hollinger.

[Read more... \[Judge denies permit for ATV park in Pike\]](#)

## Speed concerns: Reckless driving along Ohio 550, 555 discussed

Written by Marietta Times  
Friday, October 02, 2009

Sam Shawver  
More than 60 Bartlett area residents met with Ohio Rep. Debbie Phillips, D-Athens, at the Wesley Township Fire Hall Thursday to air their concerns about speeding and other traffic issues. They are concerned about speeding on local township and county roadways as well as along Ohio routes 550 and 555.

[Read more... \[Speed concerns: Reckless driving along Ohio 550, 555 discussed\]](#)

## Terrain-ing wheels

Written by Columbus Dispatch  
Sunday, September 27, 2009

Steve Stephens  
LOGAN, Ohio -- Sometimes, a quiet, leisurely walk in the woods isn't enough. Sometimes, the hills seem to call out for a bit of motorized horsepower.

[Read more... \[Terrain-ing wheels\]](#)

## Letter: Hooligans ruin good neighborhoods in our

## county

Written by Ironton Tribune  
Saturday, September 12, 2009

Most of us would rather have a good relationship with our neighbors, be it an active, friendly-type or a passive, civil one.  
As long as you and your neighbors are on good terms, your neighborhood is a nice place to live.  
[Read more... \[Letter: Hooligans ruin good neighborhoods in our county\]](#)

## Ohio Troopers Flatten ATVs To Encourage Safe Riding

Written by WTOV-TV  
Wednesday, September 02, 2009

All-terrain vehicle lovers take note: don't break the law or you could lose your ride.  
Anyone convicted of a felony related to ATV riding can have their vehicle confiscated by the Ohio State Highway Patrol and subsequently destroyed. Wednesday, troopers at a salvage yard watched as another ATV was crushed.  
[Read more... \[Ohio Troopers Flatten ATVs To Encourage Safe Riding\]](#)

## Ohio enacts trespassing amendment for ATV use

Written by Farm World  
Wednesday, August 12, 2009

Celeste Baumgartner  
COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ron Clifton, Pickaway County, was planting a field when he saw a kid on an all terrain vehicle (ATV) on his property. He yelled at the kid, who took off.  
"It made me mad," Clifton said.  
  
He called the sheriff. Fortunately, an officer was driving by at the time. Clifton accompanied the officer to see the parents.  
[Read more... \[Ohio enacts trespassing amendment for ATV use\]](#)

## New Ohio law contains provisions of interest to rural landowners

Written by Zanesville Times Recorder  
Monday, July 13, 2009

Mark Mechling  
On July 1, Ohio law contains new provisions on criminal trespass, registration and operation of all-purpose vehicles (APVs).  
Rural landowners will have interest in the new criminal trespass sections, which increase fines when a trespass occurs with an APV. The law's license plate program will require APVs to display a license plate and validation sticker like other vehicles. APV operators will pay higher registration fees, but on-farm APVs used as a farm implement will be exempt from registration.  
[Read more... \[New Ohio law contains provisions of interest to rural landowners\]](#)

## Off-roaders who trespass will face bigger fines

Written by Associated Press  
Sunday, July 12, 2009

James Hannah  
Morrow County farmer Eddie Lou Meimer is hoping a new Ohio law that toughens penalties for people who drive off-road vehicles on farms without permission will prevent more damage to her crops and ease her worries about being sued in case of an accident.  
Meimer, who owns a farm just south of Mount Gilead, said Thursday she has been victimized by off-roaders. They smash her crops and pose a threat to her maple-syrup operation, she said, and they've knocked over her neighbor's electric fence, allowing cows to run loose.  
"They come in on the back and ride through any crops that are there," she said. "Catching them is nearly impossible. If you see them in the distance, they're gone by the time you get there."  
[Read more... \[Off-roaders who trespass will face bigger fines\]](#)

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