

342 Hamilton Street, Albany, NY 12210    phone (518) 432-1770    fax (518) 449-4839

2014 Legislative Session

## **MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION**

**A. 4971-A Russell**

### **An act to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to the definition and use of all-terrain vehicles**

The Adirondack Council strongly opposes this legislation which, would redefine all terrain vehicles to include significantly heavier, larger, and more environmentally damaging motorized vehicles. The larger machines could then be used in the same places that the smaller ATVs are currently allowed, which has already led to significant destruction of wildlife habitat in the Adirondack Park. The bill language, by raising the weight limit of motorized vehicles defined as “ATVs” from 1000 to 1500 pounds, significantly alters the type and design of the vehicles that may be used for the same purposes as current ATVs.

The bill would allow for vehicles that are only slightly lighter than the street legal Smart cars, which weigh approximately 1800 pounds, to be considered ATVs. Additionally, current ATVs are one-seat, two-rider maximum vehicles, while the new larger models can seat four to six comfortably, and often allow for additional cargo storage, which can put their actual weight at over 3,200 pounds!

By allowing significantly heavier, larger, and more powerful vehicles to go where smaller ATVs currently ride, this bill would only exacerbate the problem of ATVs damaging environmentally sensitive areas, not only in the Adirondack Park, but statewide. Our State and local governments, and private landowners cannot afford deal with the amount of damage that will come with the passage of this bill.

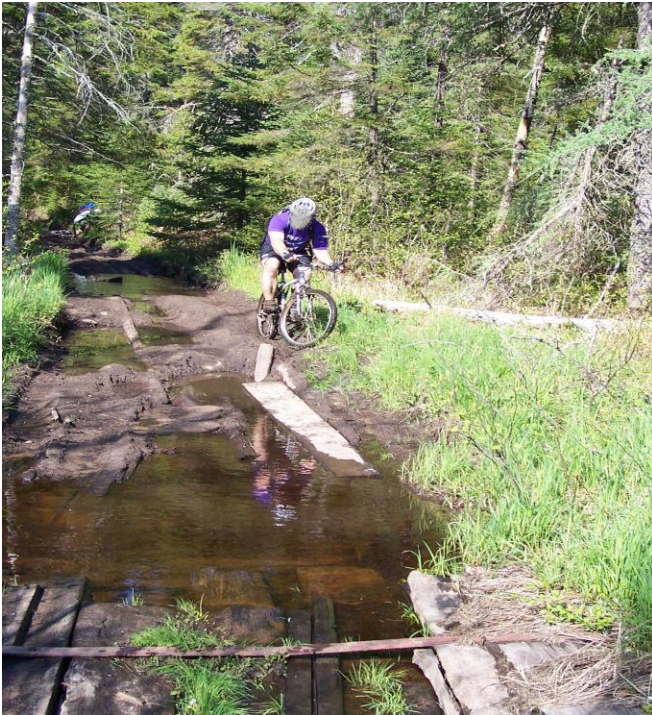
**For the above reasons, the Adirondack Council strongly opposes legislation and urges members of the Legislature to hold it for consideration.**

**The Adirondack Council is a member based not-for-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park.**

For more information contact:  
Kevin M. Chlad



Examples of “side by side” two passenger vehicles



Mountain biker examines damage caused by ATVs (Left) and shows depth of mud hole (Right)





ATV Riders in Fulton County. The ATV pictured here is roughly 500-700 lbs lighter than the Vehicles that would be allowed by this legislation



With winches, knobby tires, and any other means necessary, ATV riders always find a way to bypass barriers placed by the Department of Environmental Conservation.



ATVs ride along many legally and illegally opened roadways. Changing their definition would drastically increase the number of ATVs on our rural roads, damaging shoulders, leading to more accidents, and potentially increasing insurance premiums for local governments.