

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Annual Update
**ATV Law Enforcement
Grant Program**

**2022 Annual Report to the 131st Joint Standing
Committee on Inland Fisheries & Wildlife**

Provided by Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Prepared by: David Chabot
February 1, 2023



HISTORY

The ATV Enforcement Grant and Aid Program was developed when legislation was passed during the 121st Maine State Legislature and [Public Law Chapter 695](#) was enacted in 2003. This law was meant to address the increased popularity of ATVs in the state of Maine. The increased use of ATVs led to higher number of conflicts and accidents, therefore the need for more ATV law enforcement was necessary.

Grants from the program are intended to provide, maintain, improve, and expand ATV enforcement as well as training for state, county, and municipal enforcement officers. Grants are available for three different project types: General ATV Enforcement, Multi-Jurisdictional Enforcement, and Training / Equipment.

A grant review committee reviews, approves and administers grants to law enforcement agencies for projects that are consistent with the criteria set within law. The funding for this program is provided from a small portion of gas tax dollars.

SUMMARY

ATV Enforcement Grant and Aid Program - **January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022**

In January of 2022, Retired Warden LT. William {Bill} Allen resigned from his duties as ATV Grant Administrator and Retired Warden Cpl. David Chabot took the program over.

Administrative cost has been reduced by digitizing all forms/applications, use of email and virtual meetings. The redundancy is eliminated, resulting in less time needed in labor hours, lowering the administrative cost of the program.

The program did see a decline in the number of grant requests but not in the monetary amount needed. The decline in applications is due to low staffing issues amongst law enforcement agencies resulting in reallocating personnel to other priorities.

40 Grant applications were received, requesting: **\$579,617.37**

ATV Law Enforcement Grant Committee approved **\$190,100.00**

The various agencies used **\$148,520.69** resulting in: **2,005.5** patrol hours dedicated to ATV law enforcement.

From this effort: **8,927** ATVs were checked, **831** other contacts were made, **232** citations and **526** warnings were issued by participating law enforcement agencies.

Since the spring of 2006, this program has received monetary grant requests totaling \$ **7,925,923.27**. The ATV Law Enforcement Grant Committee has only been able to approve **\$3,514,294.49** in grants with **\$2,738,207.08** of these funds being used to reimburse participating law enforcement agencies.

These expenditures over the last 16 years; contributed to an ongoing total of **53,160.50** hours dedicated to ATV law enforcement. Resulting in **4,803** citations, **11,659** warnings, **211,043** ATVs checked and since year 2022 - **831** other contacts made while patrolling by law enforcement officers.

The funds from this program are dedicated strictly to enforcement, training, and equipment which is needed to conduct ATV law enforcement work. The ever-increasing popularity and sales of ATVs continue to grow exponentially. Hundreds of complaints are generated by ATV use each year and the request for assistance by Maine's private landowners who support the 6,000 plus miles of trails, requires response from Maine's law enforcement officers. The funding for this program will need to be re-evaluated as soon as possible to meet such demands and unforeseen growth.