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ANNUAL UPDATE
2022 Review of ATV Registration Fees
and
Trail Maintenance Needs

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

Prepared Jointly by:
Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
and
Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry
February 1, 2023



REPORT BACK ON/UPDATE: Plc. 2021 Chapter 215

Date: January 31, 2023

In 2019 Governor Mills by Executive Order convened a task force to review the growing interest in ATV riding and the challenges that come with that i.e. the increase in the size of ATV's and the impact on private landowners who allow recreational vehicle trails on their land. Objective #6 of the Task Force was to: *Determine whether there is adequate funding for oversight, construction, and maintenance of the Maine ATV trail network.* One of the recommendations under this objective was to: *Systematically review registration fees to ensure that trail funds can always cover trail mileage.*

Within Section 10. of PL 2021 Chapter 215 it states the following:

Sec. 10. 12 MRSA §13155, sub-§12 is enacted to read: *Review of ATV registration fees and trail maintenance needs. In consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the department shall review ATV registration fees and maintenance needs of designated state-approved ATV trails in 2022 and 2023 and every 2 years thereafter. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall report the findings and recommendations from the review to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters by February 1st each year a review is required. The committee may report out legislation related to ATV registration fees and maintenance needs of ATV trails to the session of the Legislature in which the report is received.*

Current Registration Fee Distribution

This current registration year for ATVs began in May 2022 and is the first year of the \$25 fee increase for the ATV Trail Fund. The following is a summary of individual current registration fee distributions.

Resident Annual Registration (\$70.)

ATV Recreational Management Fund (DACF)	\$51.69	Previous	\$26.69
General Fund (DIFW)	\$14.69	"	\$14.69
General Fund (DIFW Admin Fee)	\$3.62	"	\$3.62

Non - Resident Annual Registration (\$115.)

ATV Recreational Management Fund (DACF)	\$69.19	Previous	\$44.19
General Fund (DIFW)	\$32.19	"	\$32.19
General Fund (DIFW Admin Fee)	\$3.62	"	\$3.62
ATV Enforcement Fund	\$10.00	"	\$10.00

Non - Resident 7-Day Registration (\$115.)

ATV Recreational Management Fund (DACF)	\$61.69	Previous	\$36.69
General Fund (DIFW)	\$24.69	"	\$24.69
General Fund (DIFW Admin Fee)	\$3.62	"	\$3.62
ATV Enforcement Fund	\$10.00	"	\$10.00

FY 2023 Revenue Distributed as of (12/25/2022)**Prev. FY 2022 (12/25/2021)**

ATV Recreational Management Fund (DACF)	\$3,136,857.04	\$1,940,147.78
General Fund (DIFW)	\$1,027,815.04	\$1,157,603.78
General Fund (DIFW Admin Fee)	\$206,397.92	\$268,673.44
ATV Enforcement Fund	\$111,740.00	\$129,430.00

ATV Recreational Management Fund, [12 M.R.S. § 1893 \(2\)](#)

The ATV Recreational Management Fund, is established and administered within the Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry (DACF), Bureau of Parks and Lands, Off Road Vehicle Office, [12 M.R.S. 1893 \(1\)](#). The fund receives revenue from the portion of the ATV registration described above as well as a portion of the gas tax attributed to the use of ATVs [36 MRS § 2903-D \(3\)](#). The fund may be used for the following purposes:

- Conducting research on issues related to the management of ATVs;
- Assisting in the formation of nonprofit ATV groups
- Making grants-in-aid to others, including political subdivisions, educational institutions, regional planning agencies and ATV groups, to construct and maintain designated state-approved ATV trails, to purchase equipment or to otherwise carry out the purposes of the fund.
- Assisting in the design and development of designated state-approved ATV trails;
- Ensuring that designated state-approved ATV trails are inspected annually;
- Purchasing, leasing or otherwise acquiring interests in land, including, but not limited to, fee or easement interests for designated state-approved ATV trails or sport-riding facilities;
- Providing protection to landowners against ATV-related suit or liability; and
- Otherwise providing for the wise and orderly management of ATVs.

This report narrowly focuses on having adequate funding from registration fees to meet the maintenance needs of designated state-approved ATV trails as directed by [12 MRSA §13155, sub-§12](#).

Municipal and Club ATV Trail Grants 2022/2023

Opportunities to apply for trail grants from the ATV Recreational Management Fund are provided to municipalities and ATV clubs through the DACF Off Road Vehicle Office. In 2022 the office awarded:

- 47 Municipal Grants Totaling \$2.1 Million
- 79 Club Grants Totaling \$626,500.

Conclusion

2022 was the first trail grant year that utilized the increased registration fee recommended by the ATV Task Force that was supported by the legislature and signed into law in 2021. Substantial progress has been made in the maintenance and inspection of over 5,700 miles of state approved trail, much of this trail system is on private land. At this time neither DACF nor IFW recommend any changes to the current registration fees for resident and non-resident ATVs.