



ATV Minnesota

"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"

Member Newsletter

April 1, 2026

Anti-ATV Anti-Access Bill "Laid Over" During Senate Committee Hearing

On Thursday, March 26th, 2026, a Senate hearing was held on the Anti-Access Bill. An hour of testimony by those in favor and those opposed ended with the author, Sen. Jen McEwen (DFL, Duluth), saying it would be "laid over" for more discussion. However, in a press release the next day, she said "I will continue to fight for this legislation this session until this necessary work is done."



ATV Minnesota, its members and member clubs, have been pushing back on anti-ATV legislation for over 20 years. Different legislative authors. Same ridiculous attacks on what is one of the best built, best maintained ATV trail systems in the country. Testifiers in favor of this year's bill, Senate File 1245, presented misinformation, facts out of context, and outright false statements. Democrat and Republican Senators on the Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee stated that, like the last year and the year before that, the bill is government overreach, and a solution looking for a problem that doesn't exist.

Even the bill's title is misleading

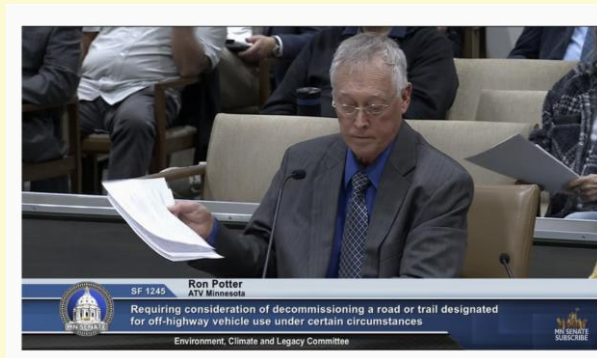
Senate File 1245 *"Commissioner of natural resources requirement to consider decommissioning a road or trail designated for off-highway vehicle use under certain circumstances."*

As few as 50 people could decommission an ATV trail. That is just one of many requirements of SF 1245. No new trails near water or wetlands. No use of ATVs for any purpose (trail riding, hunting, fishing, camping, berry picking), on any of the hundreds of trails on State land north of Highway 2, unless signed as open. And many other unrealistic restrictions.

Here are what a few of those testifying at the hearing, and commenting after the hearing, said in opposition to SF 1245, which would destroy ATV recreation in Minnesota.

On trail development

“Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Ron Potter. I serve as president of the All Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota. Together with our 72 member clubs, we build and maintain a sustainable ATV trail system across Minnesota that supports local economies and enhances outdoor recreation, while protecting our natural resources. **I am here today to express our**



strong opposition to Senate File 1245. It threatens the responsible trail development framework that we have worked decades to establish.

Over the last 2 years, we’ve worked in good faith with Senator McEwen and others to find common ground and improve this bill. We’ve also had discussions with the DNR and the counties as the bill directly impacts the land they manage. While we’re allowed to use limited areas of the land they oversee, we neither have the authority nor make management decisions on those lands. We work to be good partners as they manage for multiple use. All ATV trails are developed through a rigorous permitting process that’s public, transparent and administered by the DNR. Trail development and maintenance follow environmental best practices.”

On allowing just 50 people to essentially close an OHV trail

“The proposal, while called common sense by proponents, is far from it in reality. Under subdivision 5, as few as 50 residents or just 150 residents statewide could commission the DNR to close OHV trails. The commissioner must review every petition within 90 days, regardless of whether any scientific evidence has been provided. That invites organized campaigns to target trails across the state, and forces the DNR into a continuous cycle of administrative review, rather than focusing on resource management.” -Geof Salmos, bd member, MN4WDA

On buffer zones to protect waters and wetlands

“SF 1245 takes a one size fits all approach, without clear evidence of widespread harm. The 200 to 150 foot setbacks would eliminate large portions of sustainable, long-established trails. In a state where water is everywhere.” - Chris Bjork, ARMCA, AMA District 23

On environmental protections

“Our land department provides oversight on trails in the county. We take great pride in our stewardship of the natural resources we manage, and protect, that provides local oversight by natural resource professionals with first hand knowledge of the land.” -Kory Cease, Itasca County Land Commissioner



On signing all ATV trails on state land north of Hwy 2

“Because we’ve done a good job creating designated trails, riders have well-maintained places to ride. Under this proposal, someone who wants to take an ATV ride to their favorite fishing hole or berry picking couldn’t do that on what has been an acceptable and responsible practice for decades, unless there is a sign that ATVs are allowed. The signs would be a significant financial and time burden. My staff would have to place and maintain signs that permit ATVs, and there are many.” -Nathan Eide, Lake County Land Commissioner



On the need for common sense

“Everyone wants to regulate northeast Minnesota. This bill creates a fundamental change on how people access our trails across the Northland. ATV riders in northern Minnesota are not the problem. They are people who respect the land, build the trails and care about the outdoors. They’re not asking for special treatment.

They are asking for simple common sense.

“What problem are we actually solving? What I see is more bureaucracy without the resources to implement it, and shoving those costs onto our local counties. What I see is a risk to our trail system, to our tourism, to our small mom-and-pop shops and businesses all across the Northland, and slow deterioration of outdoor tourism, impacting everyone who enjoys the outdoors in my district in northeast Minnesota.” - Senator Grant Hauschild (DFL-Hermantown)

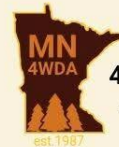
Summing it up

“This bill is horrible. It needs to go away.” - Senator Nathan Wesenberg, in a social media post (Rep-Senate District 10: communities in Aitkin, Benton, Crow Wing, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Morrison counties)

Thanks to all those who testified or contacted the senators on the committee. Senators reported receiving over 200 emails and calls in the days prior to the hearing. As

we have done for over 20 years, ATV Minnesota, its members, member clubs, and legislators who support safe, responsible motorized recreation in Minnesota, will continue to push back on anti-OHV, anti-access and any other anti-motorized recreation bills presented at the State Capitol.

The All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota (ATV MN), the Amateur Riders Motorcycle Association/District 23 (ARMCA/D23), and the Minnesota 4-Wheel Drive Association (MN4WDA) have been made aware that some communications recently sent to lawmakers have been inappropriate. This language was disrespectful, misleading, and in some cases, offensive. Our organizations do not condone any language that is hateful or discriminatory. We strongly believe that any policy disagreements should be addressed through respectful, fact-based dialogue. We are committed to engaging in constructive conversations grounded in accurate information with all relevant parties. Our goal is to create workable solutions for Minnesotans and our public lands.



Minnesota
4-Wheel Drive
Association
mn4wda.org



New Club In Hastings Off To A Great Start

By Ken Irish, ATV MN Regional Director

The Dakota SxS & ATV Club held their first club meeting on March 12, 2026. The newly formed club had been in the early stages of beginning for a while. They started to gather names of people that were interested in being part of the club last fall. Over 70 people came out to support them at the meeting, off to a great start!

They registered with the State of Minnesota to get their nonprofit status earlier this year, and received their official 501(c)(3). This was the go-ahead they were waiting for.

At their first official meeting the group held elections for the club board members, and began to collect dues. Allan Kirchhof, ATV Minnesota 2nd vice president, spoke to the group about ATV youth safety training. Dave Clevenger, ATV Minnesota 1st vice

president, and Ken Irish, ATV Minnesota southern regional director, talked about legislative concerns and about joining ATV Minnesota, our state association.

The group is now looking for people to help form committees. They plan to host ATV youth safety training, and charity rides, and be involved in the community. They have already launched a swap meet market section on their website for their members. The club is a family-friendly group for all ages and has started a youth committee to share things they would like to do.

The Dakota SxS & ATV Club holds its monthly club meetings on the second Thursday of each month, 7 p.m., Bogey's Pub, at the Emerald Greens Golf Course, 14425 Goodwin Ave, Hastings, MN.



For more information contact club president, Devyn (Billie) Dimmick-Partington

at presidentdakotasxsatvclub@gmail.com or visit their website dakotasxsatv.com and follow them on Facebook.

The club board (L to R in photo): Randy Kirk, Paul Plueger, Devyn Dimmick-Partington, Tim Leonard, Kellie Kimmes, Mike Dimmick, Kevin McGraw, Nate Raway and Charlie Weber. Not in photo: Ryan Young.



A Successful Club Ride

(From the club's Facebook page)

We want to send a huge thank you to everyone who came out to support and donate to the Miesville Fire Department. It was an incredible day filled with community, generosity, and a whole lot of fun. Seeing everyone come together to support our real heroes was truly amazing. We're so grateful to be part of such a strong and giving community. Donations will remain open until April 5th at 11:59 p.m.. If you weren't able to attend or would still like to contribute, you can use our Venmo link or mail a check to donate.

<https://www.venmo.com/u/DakotaSXSATVClub>

Thank you again for being part of something so special to us.
Ride United. Ride Safe. Honor the Brave.



ATV MINNESOTA
"Your Voice To Ride"
(And Have Fun!)

Seventy-two dedicated ATV clubs and their volunteers, building and maintaining fun, sustainable ATV trails for the riding public (and bridges, boardwalks, kiosks, parking, selfie stations and more).

**Invite friends and family to
join today.
Gift memberships available!**

*****ECRL0T 00027D**R004		PRESRT STD.
726245 5/31/2024	RENEWAL DATE	U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Mudslide McWheelie		55806
1234 Mudtrack Lane		PERMIT NO. 1003
RoughRider Falls, MN 56789		

See the mailing label on your Minnesota Wheelin magazine for your membership renewal date. Be sure to include your email address on the renewal form we send you to receive our

twice-monthly newsletter. Send renewals to ATV MN, PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079. You can also join/renew at atvmn.org.

Belonging to ATV Minnesota, you join thousands of riders throughout the state, have fun, and help create a positive future for ATV riding in Minnesota.



As a family or individual member, for \$30, you receive:

- A subscription to Minnesota Wheelin magazine (published times 6 a year).
- Twice-monthly newsletter by email with the latest news.
- Membership card and ATV MN logo sticker for your ATV.
- Invitations to events, including our Legislative Summit, Vision Conference, Ride & Roast in the spring, and State Convention "Ride & Rally" in the fall, as well as membership meetings.
- A full-time lobbyist at the State Capitol, helping create pro-ATV legislation, and moving forward bills to provide funding for new trail systems.

As a business member, for \$90 you

receive:

All of the above, plus:

- Your business name and contact information listed in our Minnesota Wheelin magazine and on the ATV Minnesota website.
- Discounts on advertising in Minnesota Wheelin. For details on rates and deadlines, send an email to Creston Dorothy at Pro Print in Duluth: cdorothy@proprintus.com.**

-Opportunities to reach more customers by sponsoring or donating to our events.

To join, contact **ATVAM** or call (800) 442-8826.



Thanks To Our Corporate Sponsors For Their Generous, Financial Support Of ATV Minnesota!

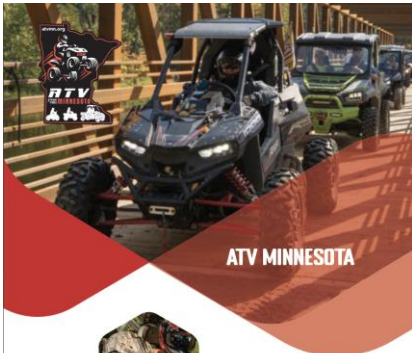
-MotoAlliance (\$5,000 Silver

Sponsorship) - Check out their cargo boxes, winches, plows and more at motoalliance.com.

-Remer Motel & Campground (\$5,000 Silver Sponsorship) - Ride all day, then rest easy in a comfortable room or at the full-service campground. Reserve your stay today at theremermotel.com or call 218-566-2555.



-Timber Bay Lodge & Houseboats (\$2500 Bronze Sponsorship) - Visit timberbay.com to learn about its amazing lodges (sleep up to 15), traditional cabins and fleet of houseboats. Timber Bay Lodge & Houseboats is on the south shore of Birch Lake, near Babbitt, Minn, with direct access by ATV to the Prospector Trail system.



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