



## *PINELANDS PRESERVATION ALLIANCE*

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DRAFT—January 12, 2011

### **Comprehensive Plan to Address Illegal Class 1 Vehicle Traffic in the Pinelands**

1. NJDEP should issue a policy directive similar to Commissioner Campbell's directive in 2002 that off-road vehicle traffic (i.e., people deliberately driving in areas that are clearly not designated roads) will not be tolerated on state land.
2. NJDEP should also direct all law enforcement agencies to strictly enforce state lands regulations regarding motor vehicles, so that costs for damages to state-owned land can be recuperated from these offenders.
3. Law enforcement agencies should cite people when they find them clearly driving off the roads. The excuse that "someone drove there before, so it looks like road now," clearly does not wash in many of these cases.
4. Local judges need to hit offenders with penalties stiff enough to function as deterrents.
5. The New Jersey Forest Fire Service should establish a policy of blocking access to roads that were created in the course of fighting fires.
6. The state lands authorities should post "No Motorized Vehicles" signs at points where people are habitually gaining access to damaged areas.
7. The state lands authorities should shut off access to damaged areas and close roads when conditions, such as inundation, contribute to the risk that such roads will continue to be damaged by specially equipped vehicles, making it impossible for the general public to travel these roads.
8. The Pinelands Commission should formally request that access to these damaged areas be shut off so the habitats can recover.
9. 4WD club leaders and leaders of any other kinds of recreational clubs should step up education of their members, and do everything they can to rein in the illegal and irresponsible activities.
10. Law-abiding citizens who explore the Pinelands need to use their cameras and cell phones to document and report violations. If the law enforcement personnel are tied up with something else, and can't get to the scene, or don't want to write a citation, then the citizens may need to write up a complaint.
11. Conservation and recreational organizations should work with NJDEP to develop, fund, and implement restoration plans for degraded areas.
12. Volunteer programs need to be created to help provide resources for marking trails, posting off limit areas, and patrolling the parks.