

\$11 Million+ in NY ATV/OHM Registration Fees Collected, Unused

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Updated 3/10/06. Inflation factor though 2001, updated 4/2/03.

A \$10.00 per-machine registration fee has been collected since 1986 and deposited into the NYS General Fund; this money amounting now to **over \$11 million** has not been funneled back to users in any way, amounting to taxation without representation. Subsequently, it is estimated that only about 25% of the all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off-highway motorcycles (OHMs, or trailbikes) in use in New York are actually registered. That means there may be well over 500,000 ATVs and trailbikes in use in the state, with very limited publicly-accessible trails.

Chapter 402, Laws of 1986 initially established the ATV trail development and maintenance fund. \$5 of every \$10 registration fee collected was to be set aside for an ATV Trail Development and Maintenance Fund. (Trivia: A trailbike, if not highway-registered, is an ATV under NY law.) The fund was abolished by Chapter 190, Laws of 1990, the money collected through 1989 was reverted to the General Fund, but the requirement to register and the collection of the \$10 fee to the benefit of the General Fund continues to this day. We expect you as a trail rider to be duly angered by this matter.

Bills put forth in the NYS Legislature from 1993 to 2004 repeatedly failed to be moved forward due to opposition by NY's strong and well-funded anti-recreation groups. With the 3/31/05 passage of the 2005-2006 State Budget, NYSORVA was finally able to get a dedicated Trail Fund re-established, based on a \$15 fee increase to be dedicated to the fund (\$25 total). However, the Budget appropriated the first-year's revenue to the general Fund and did NOT include authority to spend the money past year-one, and a subsequent bill is in the works to address various technical details, chief of which is what percentages of the fund will be for trails, education, enforcement, and administration. So we still need your help in advocating for the best deal for trails and related programs, primarily a change to get some of the new revenue to make start-up of an ATV Program possible. And in January 2006, yet another proposal to create a TrailProgram landed in the Executive Budget, which we are working on getting in better shape and through the process. Spread the word and get involved!

Year ¹	Total Registrations ³	Growth (%)	Revenue to General Fund (\$)	Revenue to General Fund in 2001 Dollars ⁶
1986	13,600	--	136,000	219,188
1987	22,500	65	225,000	344,490
1988	30,600	36	306,000	448,712
1989	34,800	13	348,000	487,665
1990	27,208 ²	(21)	272,080	359,310
1991	27,277	0.3	272,770	349,499
1992	27,963	2.5	279,630	348,195
1993	28,461	1.8	284,610	344,940
1994	29,362	3.2	293,620	346,571
1995	24,106	(18)	241,060	277,488
1996	29,613	23	296,130	329,937
1997	40,502	37	405,020	443,686
1998	48,000 ⁴	19	480,000	517,484
1999	54,917	14	549,170	576,544
2000	69,503	27	695,030	705,770
2001	98,655	41	986,550	1,009,970
2002	125,357 ⁷	27	1,253,570	1,253,570
2003	114,001	(9)	1,114,010	1,114,010
2004	123,480	8	1,234,800	1,234,800
2005	137,172	11	?**	??
		TOTAL⁵	2004 \$9,673,050	2004 \$10,711,829

**** awaiting data from the state on how many registered after the 7/1/05 effective increase form \$10 to \$25.**

1) All statistics listed, except 1998, are from DMV records, determined at the time of mailing of registration renewals each February (represents year-end number).

2) A steep decline in registration followed the 1989 figure when the trail fund was abolished under Chapter 190 of Laws of 1990. \$507,500 accrued in the Trail Fund (one-half of the \$10 registration fee) was reverted to the General Fund at this time.

3) Lists of registrations-by-county are available for 1997, and 2001 through 2004.

4) Estimate per 1999 DMV Fiscal Impact Statement for NYS Bills A.1060/S.632.

5) 2005 registration renewals which will be due in April, should add over **\$1,230,000** to the ever-mounting total. Furthermore, DMV is determining how to address the fee increase which becomes effective 4/20/05. Once scenario is that they will re-bill registrants which have already paid the \$10 renewal off of their renewal notice mailed to them in Feb. This would add at least \$1.8M.

6) Takes into consideration inflation factors through 2001 as reported in Ibbotson Associates' Stocks, Bonds, Bills and Inflation 2003 Yearbook.

7) DMV originally reported 117, 336 (19% increase) on 2/11/03 but issued a correction on 3/25/03, which is more in line with registration growth expectations based on a 2002 sales growth estimate reported by the industry.