

2019 Memorandum in Opposition

Bill: A3744 by Assembly Member Gunther

Title: Authorizes special access to hunting and fishing grounds on state land for handicapped individuals

The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) Strongly Opposes this Legislation.

This legislation is unnecessary and redundant. There currently exist rules and regulations under the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities (MAPPWD) Commissioner's Policy #3. This policy and program (also known as CP3) permits hunting and fishing access to disabled individuals on state lands. "The MAPPWD permit is a temporary revocable permit (TRP) that provides motor vehicle access to certain state lands administered by DEC. MAPPWD permit holders are permitted uncommon access to activities such as hunting, fishing, camping and wildlife observation." The MAPPWD/CP3 program ensures access for disabled individuals while also providing for the protection of the Forest Preserve and state public lands which may be damaged by motorized use. DEC carefully evaluates roads in the Forest Preserve and other protected state lands and regulates use to protect the resource.

Currently, the CP3 Program issues about 1200 permits annually. The proposed legislation would allow an unknown number of individuals to access NYS public land by ATV.

This is simply a bad proposal that attempts to ruin a good program which provides both access for people with disabilities, and protection for our state resources.

The intent of the proposed legislation is simply to expand ATV use on our state public lands.

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