

WHAT IS A COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)?

A voluntary regional structure of local governments working together to solve shared challenges

For NRAT specifically, the COG will manage the trail network locally, incorporating input and guidance from agencies and partners

At its core, the NRAT COG will shift decision-making, leadership, and management from DCNR to a local collaborative of governments, while maintaining active engagement and strong relationships with agency partners, organizations, and user groups

MISSION

The Northcentral Regional ATV Trail (NRAT) COG mission is to facilitate a safe and sustainable motorized trail network that empowers rural communities to foster conservation and economic growth.

SERVICE AREA

The current service area of the NRAT COG is the four-county region in northcentral Pennsylvania consisting of Clinton, Lycoming, Potter, and Tioga Counties. Once established, there is potential for the COG to expand to include counties and municipalities beyond the current footprint.



Keystone Of The
Keystone State ★★



**CURRENTLY,
RIDING INCLUDES:**
400 miles of township roads
167 miles of state forest roads and trails
33 miles of PennDOT administered roads



Governor Josh Shapiro announced in July of 2025 that the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) is awarding a Marketing to Attract Tourists program to ensure ATVs have access to fuel in Potter County.

NORTHCENTRAL REGIONAL ATV TRAIL

Council of Governments

NRAT COG

**THE NEXT STEPS TO
One Of Pennsylvania's
Premier Outdoor
Recreation Destinations**

Potter, Tioga, Clinton
& Lycoming Counties

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OBJECTIVES

Collaboration: Provide leadership and coordinate partner participation through committees and advisory groups to ensure balanced representation.

Sustainable Management: Oversee a structured organization with the operational and financial stability to manage ongoing responsibilities, a plan for sustainable expansions, and the fostering of a conscientious ridership ethic.

Community Engagement: Deploy a communication strategy that includes routine messaging, events, and outreach to engage a broad range of stakeholders, riders, and communities.

Environmental Stewardship: Develop education and resource management plans that provide tools and resources to uniformly manage and steward the assets.

Growth & Development: Create business, funding, and expansion plans to acquire the necessary revenue to support and sustain the trail network.

KEY FUNCTIONS

Administration: Budget development and approval; Election of officers and appointment of committee chairs; Independent audits

Operations: Municipal reimbursement contracts; Route selection; Review of landowner agreements; Permit Sales; Mapping updates; Signage updates/additions/subtractions

Short- and long-term planning: Municipal Updates and Feedback Sessions; Grant research and proposals; Route maintenance; Trail surface and riding conditions

Relationship building: Partnership outreach; Attendance at municipal meetings

*Pictures are for illustrative purposes only.

The Northcentral Regional ATV Trail was a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) initiative to take specific action to expand regional riding opportunities by establishing and monitoring a three-year "pilot program" for ATV use on Commonwealth lands.

BENEFITS

The benefits of membership in the COG are expected to be extensive.

They may include, but may not be limited to:

- Direct representation in charting the future growth and development of the NRAT network. Participation is open to all; voting privileges are reserved for municipalities that formally enter into the Articles of Incorporation through Ordinance or Resolution and pay the annual membership contribution.
- **Maintenance support via financial reimbursements for dust suppressants, road maintenance, and seasonal sanitation expenses**
- Mapping support through cooperative staff sharing and dedicated contract positions
- Customer service via a centralized staff member tasked with managing direct communications with users, community members, and partners
- Organizational support through dedicated staff tasked with management and development of the NRAT network
- **Reduced rates due to the potential for bulk purchasing and quantity discounts**
- Economic Opportunities that develop through marketing partnerships, chambers of commerce, tourism, and trail network promotion



MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

General Eligibility Membership is open to all municipalities within the service area of the NRAT Network

Voting Members

Voting membership is open to all municipalities within the NRAT COG service area. Members must formally enter into the Articles of Incorporation via approved ordinance and pay the annual membership contribution. **Voting privileges are reserved for only those municipalities that pay the annual membership fee.** Voting members may appoint an elected official or designated representative. They may also appoint an alternate representative, with voting proxy, to serve in their absence.

Non-Voting Members

Non-voting, participatory membership is open to municipalities and network partners that may be interested in, influenced by, and/or impacted by the NRAT Network and approved by the voting membership. Participatory members are encouraged to participate in meetings and committees, but do not pay a fee and do not have voting privileges.

Advisory

By invitation of the COG to partners and external advisors with expertise on key committees and initiatives; No fee and no voting privileges.

Annual Membership Dues

Expected to be \$200 annual, per municipality.

Contact your County Planning Department if your municipality is interested in becoming a COG Member.

POTTER COUNTY

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CLINTON COUNTY

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