

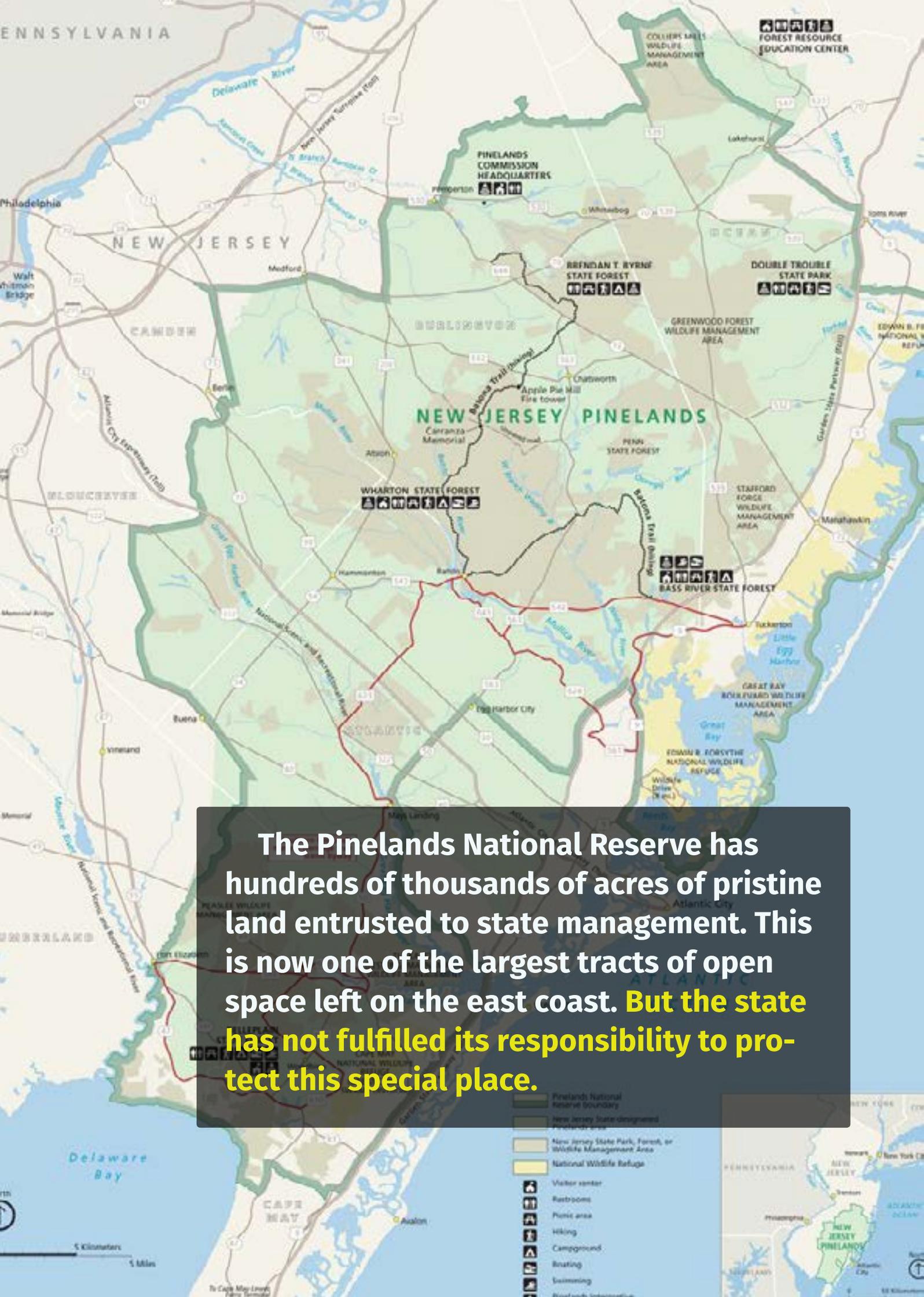
# NJ Pinelands At Risk

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Protecting  
Wild Places from  
Off-Road Vehicles

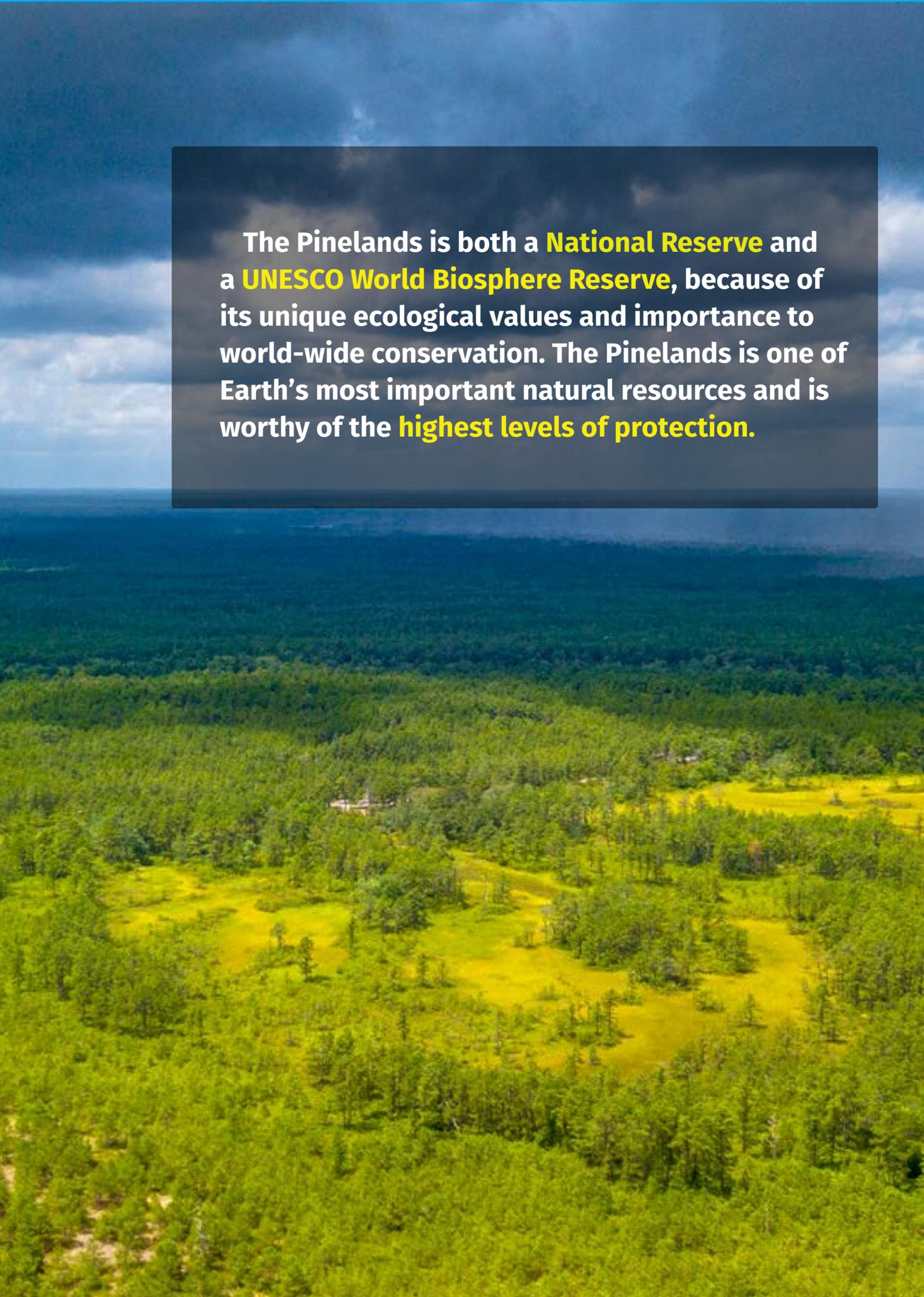


PINELANDS  
PRESERVATION  
ALLIANCE



The Pinelands National Reserve has hundreds of thousands of acres of pristine land entrusted to state management. This is now one of the largest tracts of open space left on the east coast. **But the state has not fulfilled its responsibility to protect this special place.**

- Pinelands National Reserve boundary
- New Jersey State-designated Pinelands area
- New Jersey State Park, Forest, or Wildlife Management Area
- National Wildlife Refuge
- Visitor center
- Restroom
- Picnic area
- Hiking
- Campground
- Boating
- Swimming
- Roadwork information



The Pinelands is both a **National Reserve** and a **UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve**, because of its unique ecological values and importance to world-wide conservation. The Pinelands is one of Earth's most important natural resources and is worthy of the **highest levels of protection**.

An aerial photograph of a vast wetland landscape. In the foreground, a dense forest of green trees is visible. Beyond the forest, a wide, shallow river or stream flows through a flat, marshy area. The water is a light, milky color, and the surrounding land is covered in green vegetation and patches of bare earth. In the background, a thick forest of tall trees stretches to the horizon under a cloudy sky. A semi-transparent dark grey box is overlaid on the lower-left portion of the image, containing text.

**We have a responsibility to share the beauty of this place and to protect it from forces that seek to destroy it before others even have the chance to know it exists.**



**Today**, the largest single harm to preserved land is off-road vehicle abuse. **We seek to correct this problem through better policies**, stronger communications with the public, new enforcement strategies, and the **physical protection of sensitive areas**.



**Monster Trucks** severely damage wetlands.

Individuals illegally use pristine Pinelands habitats as a testing grounds for their vehicles.



**This spotted turtle was found crushed by an ORV in the Great Swamp of Wharton State Forest.**



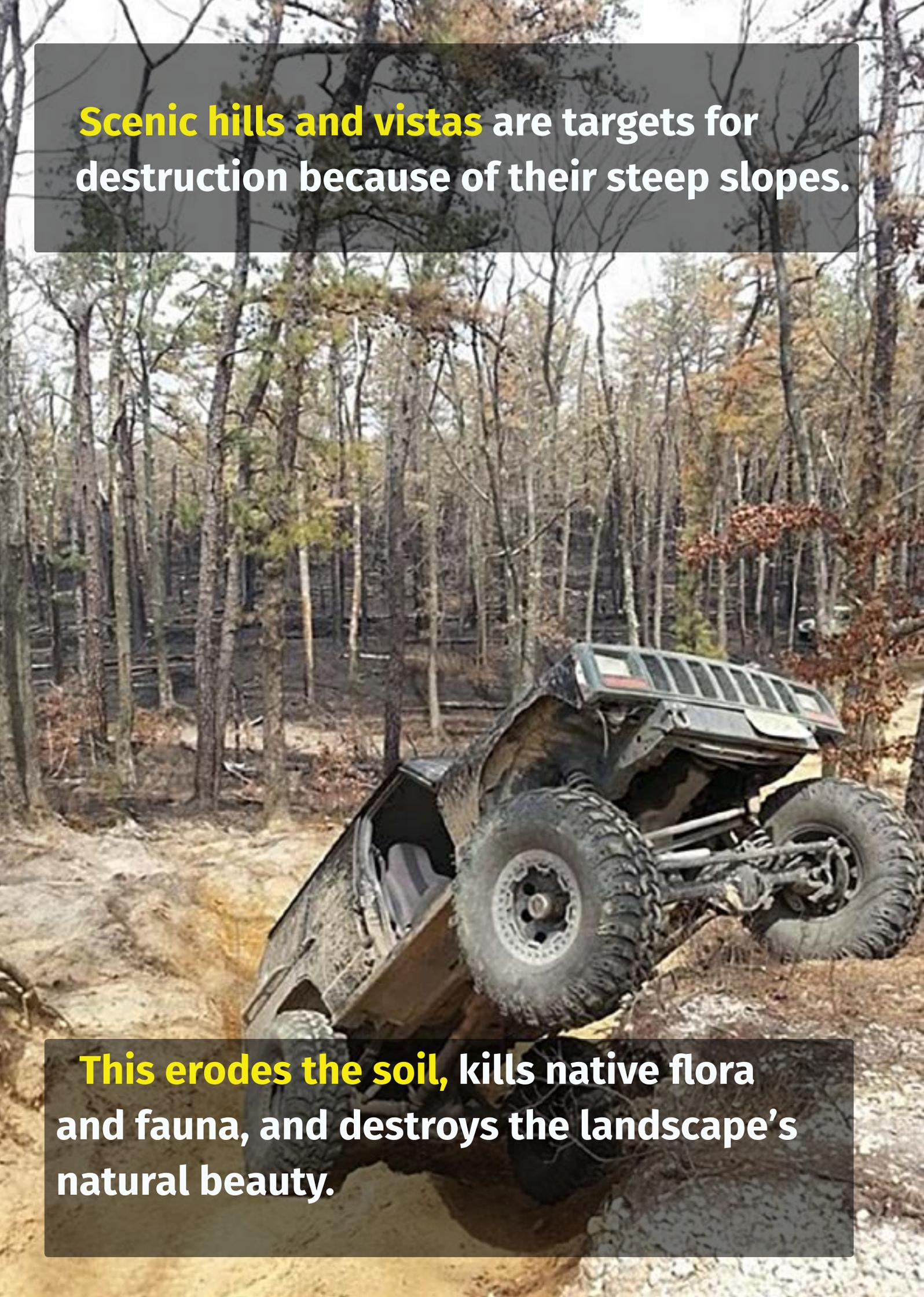
**A rarely seen short-tailed weasel was found crushed on an illegal dirt bike track in Brendan T. Byrne State Forest**



**These special places need to be protected and made more accessible for peaceful, low-impact recreation.**

**Many areas in the Pinelands are protected from development and sprawl, but the quality of the land and water depends on our ability to prevent damage like this from continuing and spreading.**





**Scenic hills and vistas** are targets for destruction because of their steep slopes.

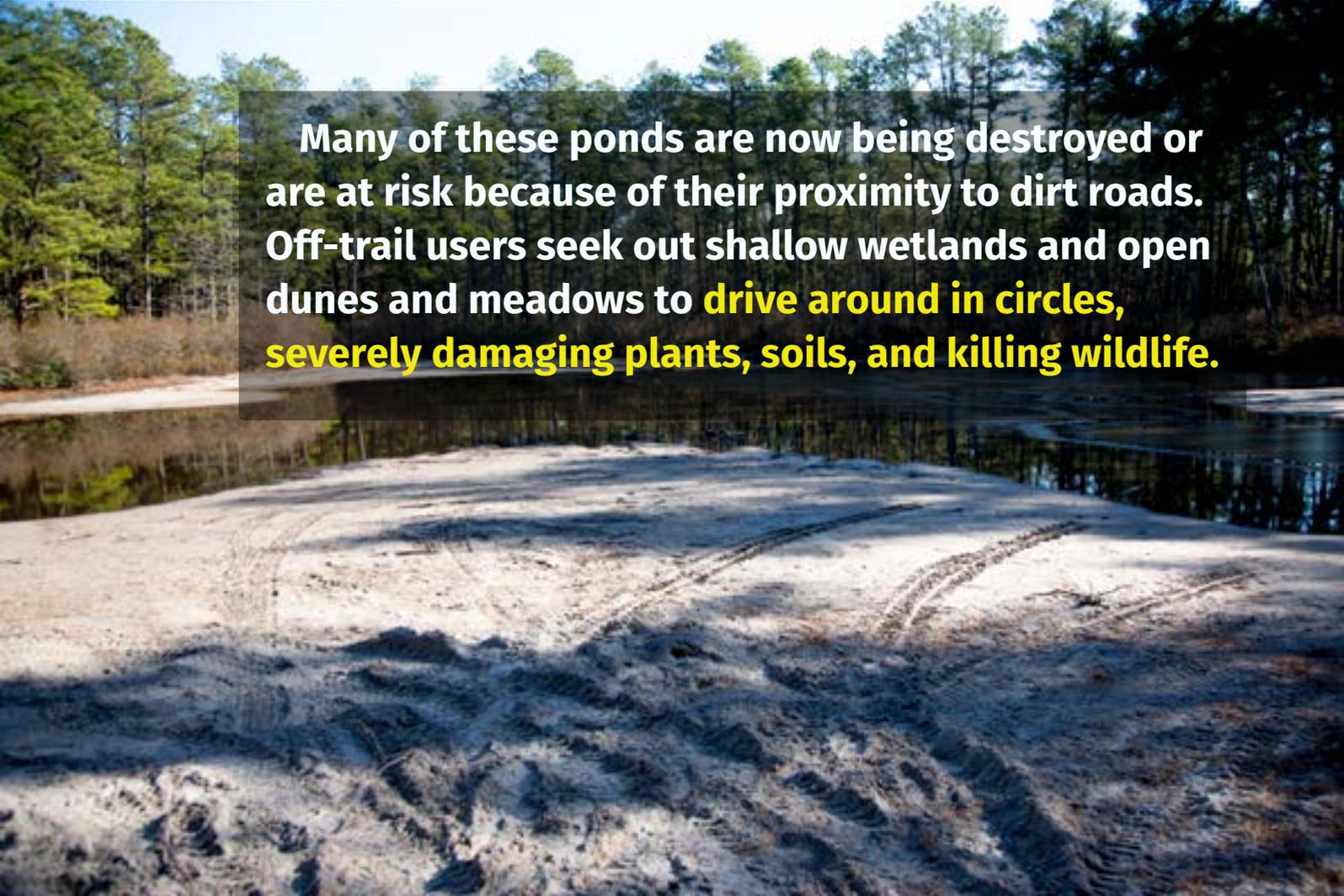
**This erodes the soil,** kills native flora and fauna, and destroys the landscape's natural beauty.



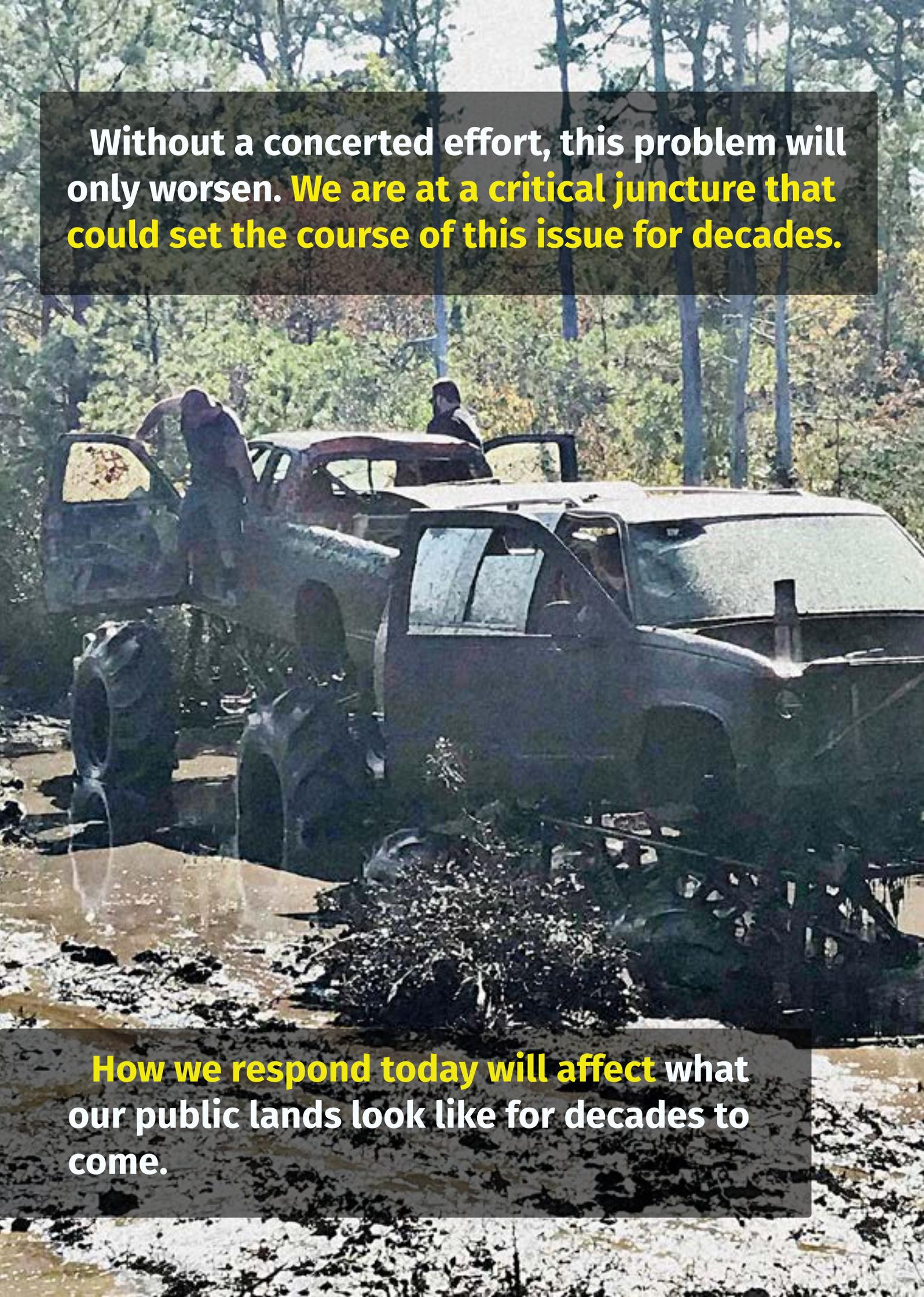
**The Pine Barrens Tree Frog's worldwide stronghold is in the Pinelands National Reserve. Off-Trail Vehicles target the breeding ponds on which these treefrogs depend.**



**Intermittent ponds like this were created thousands of years ago from glacial winds and now provide critical habitat for treefrogs, salamanders and many other unique species.**



**Many of these ponds are now being destroyed or are at risk because of their proximity to dirt roads. Off-trail users seek out shallow wetlands and open dunes and meadows to drive around in circles, severely damaging plants, soils, and killing wildlife.**



Without a concerted effort, this problem will only worsen. **We are at a critical juncture that could set the course of this issue for decades.**

**How we respond today will affect** what our public lands look like for decades to come.



**The DEP currently has no official process to address critical areas in need of protection. Areas like this will be continually abused until a process is created and implemented.**

A close-up photograph of a Northern Pine Snake coiled around a pine branch. The snake has a patterned body with dark spots and bands. The background is a soft-focus pine forest.

## Rare species in danger

**The Northern Pine Snake is New Jersey's most iconic reptile. Without very specific habitat sites in the Pinelands, this species could risk extinction.**

A wide-angle photograph of a sandy nesting area in a pine forest. The ground is light-colored sand with some sparse vegetation. The background is a dense forest of tall pine trees under an overcast sky.

## Nesting areas at risk

**Off-Road Vehicles driven in circles in nesting and denning areas imperil the ability of the Pine Snake and other rare species to exist.**



**Lawlessness** is pervasive on public lands in the Pinelands.



Illegal Dirt-bike arenas are cut into our forests without authorization and serve as **training and staging areas for off-road vehicle use throughout the Pinelands.**

# The damage is widespread and growing

**These waypoints represent the worst examples of off-trail vehicle use in the Pinelands. This is only the beginning. We need to stop the damage before it gets any worse.**

## **Hanging** by a thread



**Wildlife in New Jersey is not secure. Their fate depends on our actions.** What we do and what we allow to happen will directly affect their chance of survival. **In some cases, New Jersey is the only place they have left.**

# **A Vision** for the Future



# Creating Enforceable Routes

An enforceable route map for the entire Pinelands will give enforcement an important tool to protect sensitive areas and will help guide visitors within the Reserve.

The groundwork for this has been done in State Parks and Forests, but its implementation has languished for years.

# **Curtailling** Illegal Events

Off-road vehicle users organize large, unpermitted events over the internet and **attempt to evade law enforcement.**



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Only In The Woods Off-road Club's  
Saturday Trail ride

Public · Hosted by

These unpermitted and illegal events bring dozens of vehicles into sensitive areas, **damage roads and habitats, prevent low-impact visitors from enjoying public lands, and are illegal.**

About

Discussion

20 Went · 83 Interested

Share this event with your friends



**Pinelands Preservation Alliance Volunteers** clean up illegal dumping on public land and monitor and report ORV abuse. These issues often go hand-in-hand.



**Volunteers work with Parks staff to install vehicle barriers.**

# POND DAMAGED FROM OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

January 8th, 2016

## Restoring Damaged Sites



# PROTECTED FROM OFF-ROAD VEHICLES BY VOLUNTEERS

June 29th, 2017

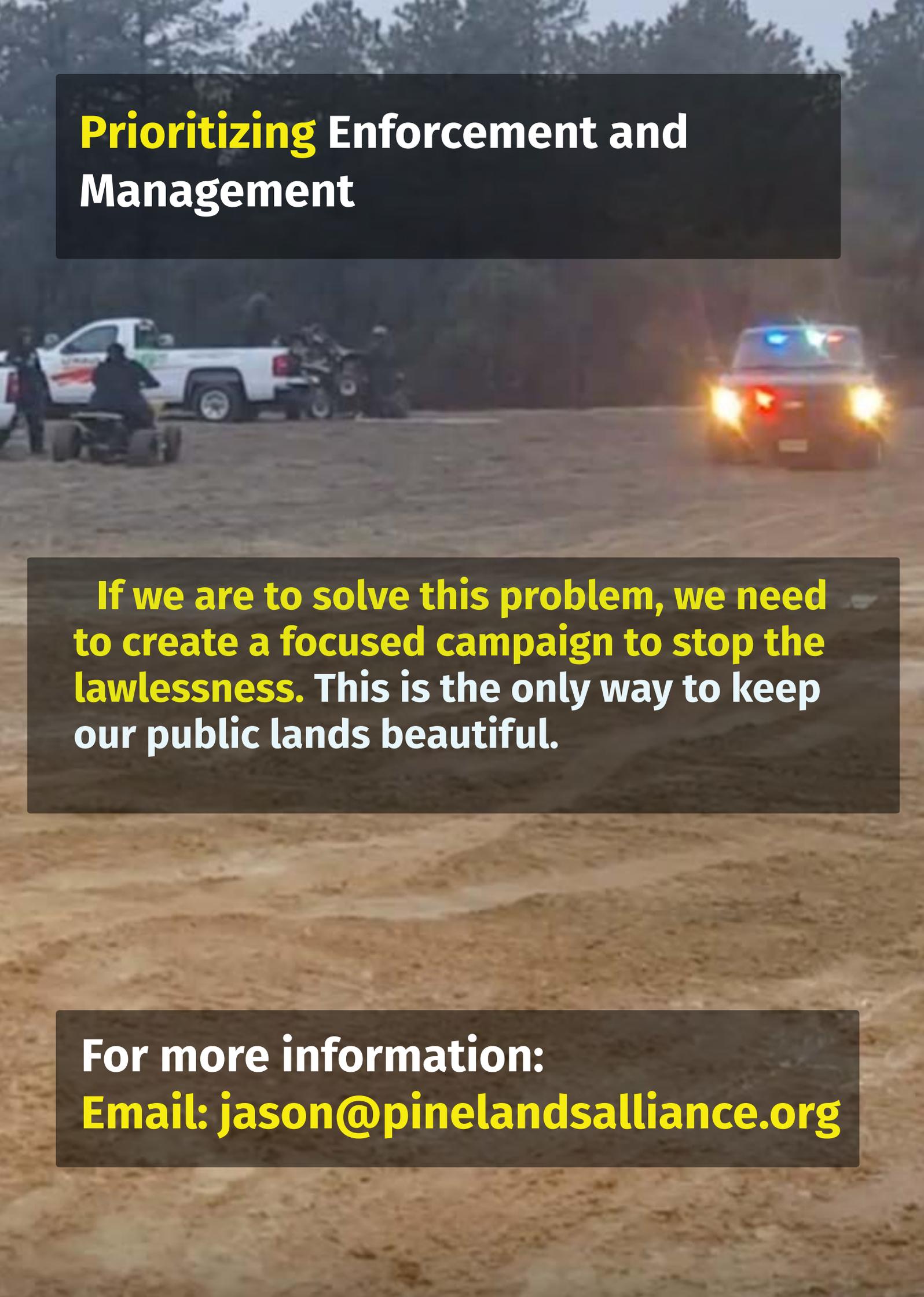


PINELANDS  
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## Promoting Access and Education

One part of the solution will be teaching everyone about the unique value of the Pinelands and how we can interact with the land harmoniously.



A night scene on a dirt road. In the foreground, a police car with its headlights and emergency lights on is driving towards the camera. In the background, a white pickup truck is parked on the left, and a person is sitting on a small vehicle or motorcycle. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light sources being the police car's lights and the ambient light from the background.

## **Prioritizing** Enforcement and Management

**If we are to solve this problem, we need to create a focused campaign to stop the lawlessness. This is the only way to keep our public lands beautiful.**

**For more information:  
Email: [jason@pinelandsalliance.org](mailto:jason@pinelandsalliance.org)**