



A Presentation for The Pinelands Commission

Policy & Implementation Committee

Enduro & Dual Sport Events  
in New Jersey's Pinelands



# A Brief History

1918: After WWI, returning doughboys buy cheap, surplus Harley Davidson motorcycles at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and hold weekend rides from Philadelphia to Atlantic City.

1934: Inspired by the Jack Pine Enduro in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Meteor Motorcycle Club holds the first "official" Sandy Lane Enduro in New Jersey's Pinelands

1960's: By the end of the decade, all of the current clubs hosting enduro events in New Jersey exist.

1970's: The Sport of Enduro is formally recognized in the Pinelands Reserve's original Comprehensive Management Plan



# What is the ECEA and what is our purpose?

- A non-profit, chartered, member organization of the nationwide American Motorcyclist Association
- Provide event series administration for our 19 member clubs in DE, NY, NJ and PA
- Events include enduros, dual sport rides, hare scrambles and youth fun rides
- We hold an annual banquet to recognize our outstanding riders and volunteers and provide 4 annual scholarships for young riders seeking to further their education in diverse fields
- Club members are locals. We're volunteer firefighters, youth coaches, tradesmen, entrepreneurs, school teachers and professionals with an age range from 18 to 80+

*If you live in the Pinelands, you know an enduro rider!*



# The Two Types of Events Held by the ECEA on Public Land in New Jersey

## Enduro

- A competitive time-keeping event
- All motorcycles are street-legal, registered and insured
- Generally lighter, more nimble bikes, with specialized equipment for enduro competition
- All riders must have a valid motorcycle license

## Dual Sport

- A non-competitive “fun” ride
- All motorcycles are street-legal, registered and insured
- Generally larger, more comfortable bikes, softer suspensions with light cargo carrying capacity
- All riders must have a valid motorcycle license

*Note: All ECEA Youth Events and Hare Scrambles are held completely on private property*

# What exactly is meant by a time-keeping event?

- Enduros are competitive events but they're not races.
- **Winning means staying on schedule**, not getting ahead or falling behind
- Timing is measured at "checks" along the course
- Points are given for being early or late and like golf, low score wins. **Early riders get more points than late ones.**
- The event is broken down into many sections and riders are stopped and "reset", periodically throughout the course
- **Roads (sand or paved) are rarely used for the competitive portions of an event**
- Groups of four or five riders start each minute and try to maintain an established speed, usually 18 MPH, through a section
- The idea for the hosting club is to make it a challenge to stay on schedule



# Why all the secrecy?

- It would present an unfair advantage for a competitor to know the course ahead of time
- Riders absolutely cannot “practice” or pre-ride an enduro and would be heavily sanctioned, even disqualified if caught. **Returning** to a course after an event **is also grounds for** future sanction, including **disqualification**.
- The exact route of the event is kept from all potential competitors. It is known only to the hosting club and reviewing agencies (The Pinelands Commission and The NJ DEP)
- The general area where events are held is not secret, nor is the timing; both are available online, and widely shared with other user groups



# Follow the money...

▶ A generic\* example of the finances involved with holding a NJ Enduro

225 participating riders are charged \$50 each = \$11,250

Shirt Sales = \$1,750

Expenses:

NJ DEP permit fee, staffing and Park Police: \$2,000

NJ Pinelands Commission fee (\$6.25/mile): \$500

Other State & Municipality Permit Fees: \$500

Site Fees: port-a-johns, trash removal, land owners: \$2,500

EMS Services Donation: \$2,100

Course Expenses and Printing: roll charts, forms, markers, ribbon, signage: \$500

Electronic Event Scoring: \$1,000

AMA Sanctioning and Event Insurance: \$700

**ECEA Event Administration: \$1000**

Rider Awards and give-a-ways: \$750

**Total Expenses: \$11,550**

The non-profit Hosting Club clears **\$1,450**

This is generally used to fund the club's operating costs like equipment rentals, maintenance items and administration; anything that remains is used for member activities and charitable donations.

*\* Each club functions under unique circumstances and employs its own strategies to balance the books; these numbers are general estimates and provided to illustrate the "ballpark" of costs and income sources.*

# Out of State Riders? Yes, and proud of it!

- ECEA events do draw participants from DE, NY, PA and even as far as CT and OH.
- They generally camp or stay in nearby lodging and they spend money.
- This is an important form of tourism that provides revenue for the Pinelands region in the off-season when most other attractions are closed.
- Restaurants, gas stations, motels, motorcycle shops and hardware stores are the most likely businesses to benefit but the positive impacts extend beyond that as local EMS, volunteer fire companies, scout troops and hunting clubs are paid to provide support services and they host fund-raising dinners and breakfasts.



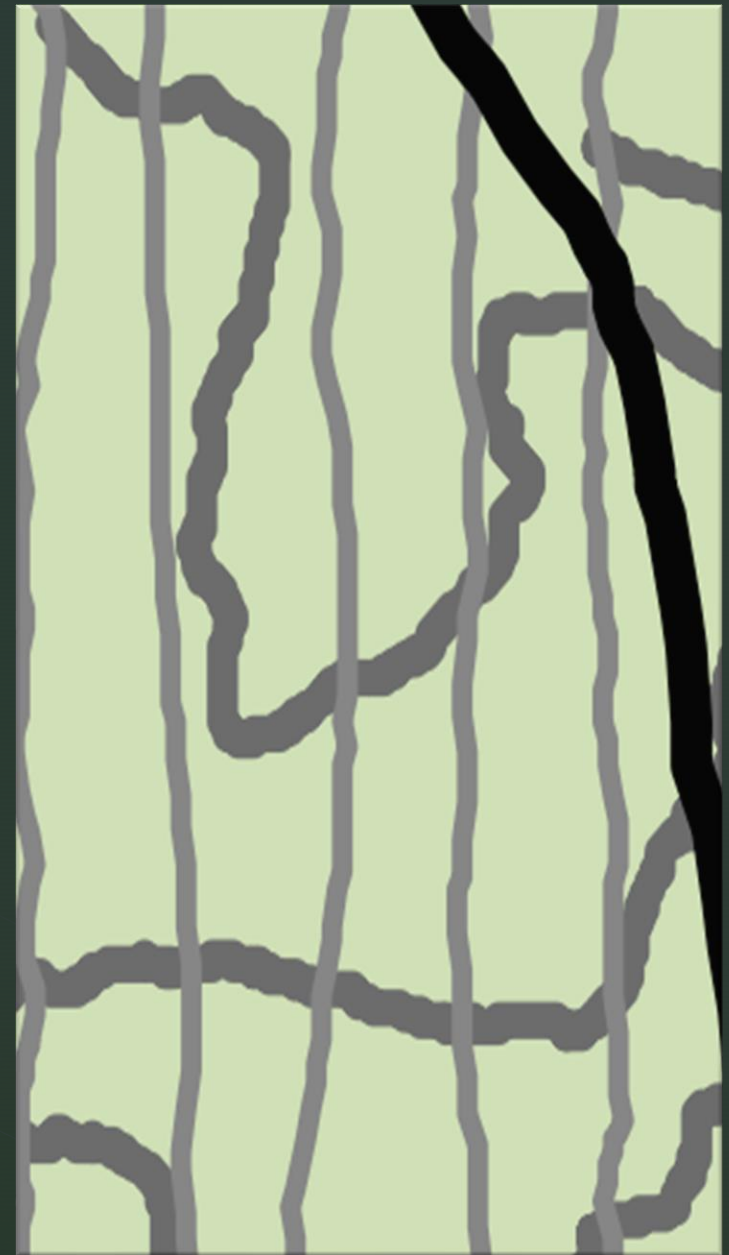


# A Few Details and Facts About the ECEA

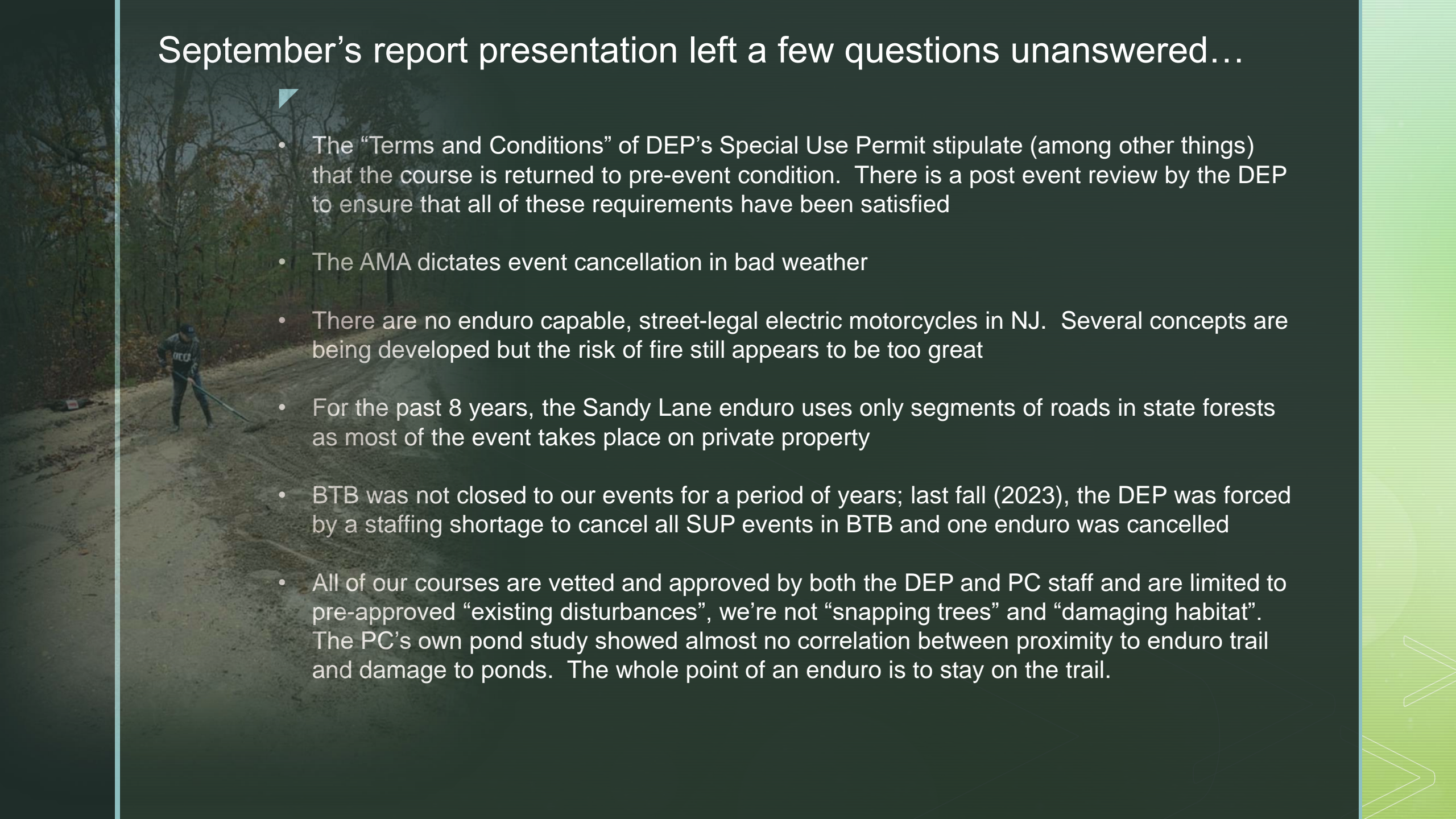
- To minimize impacts on wildlife and plant species, the DEP only permits ECEA events to take place from **October 15th – April 15th**
- For over a decade, all of our events have taken place on pre-approved menus of available course inventory established by the NJ DEP with input from PC staff.
- In 2017 the DEP asked us to work with the environmental advocacy organizations, PPA and NJCF, on a compromise plan for managing enduro events on Public Land. This effort produced a joint principles document signed by all three organizations. We use this to guide our advocacy, especially with regard to the creation of the recent BTB Enduro Menu
- **The ECEA has been recognized by the NJ DEP for our volunteer efforts**
- We have members in and liaisons to, among many others, The NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, OTNJ, and Tread Lightly; we are also represented on NJ Trail's Program Council.
- Our knowledge of the woods is put to good use volunteering for the forest fire service, local CERT crews and helping ensure that trails are safely marked for equestrian events

# Single Track Trail

- The challenge of riding on tight, windy trail that is wide enough only for a single motorcycle tire is the essence of the sport of enduro
- The original CMP asserts the existence of over 600 miles of single-track enduro trail within the Reserve
- The DEP did not include any single-track trail on the initial menus of available course inventory in NJ's state forests
- The ECEA has advocated with the DEP ever since for permission to use the existing trail that traditionally made up our courses
- In 2016 the DEP and ECEA completed a limited "test case" in Belleplain SF to show that the ECEA could provide accurate GSP mapping. This test yielded a stretch of a few miles of single-track that is allowed for our events in that forest
- The test also led to the five-year process of the ECEA, PPA, and NJCF, working with the DEP and the PC staff to create the recent BTB Enduro Menu that contains about 60 miles of single-track trail.
- What the future holds is not certain but for now, all enduro events in the rest of NJ must use private property for any sections of single-track trail



# September's report presentation left a few questions unanswered...

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- A person wearing a dark jacket and a cap is using a long-handled tool, possibly a rake or brush, to clear a dirt path in a wooded area. The path is made of loose soil and is surrounded by trees with some autumn-colored leaves. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the person and the path.
- The “Terms and Conditions” of DEP’s Special Use Permit stipulate (among other things) that the course is returned to pre-event condition. There is a post event review by the DEP to ensure that all of these requirements have been satisfied
  - The AMA dictates event cancellation in bad weather
  - There are no enduro capable, street-legal electric motorcycles in NJ. Several concepts are being developed but the risk of fire still appears to be too great
  - For the past 8 years, the Sandy Lane enduro uses only segments of roads in state forests as most of the event takes place on private property
  - BTB was not closed to our events for a period of years; last fall (2023), the DEP was forced by a staffing shortage to cancel all SUP events in BTB and one enduro was cancelled
  - All of our courses are vetted and approved by both the DEP and PC staff and are limited to pre-approved “existing disturbances”, we’re not “snapping trees” and “damaging habitat”. The PC’s own pond study showed almost no correlation between proximity to enduro trail and damage to ponds. The whole point of an enduro is to stay on the trail.

# Our Goals

- Not all motorcycle riders are part of the ECEA nor can we speak to or be held responsible for their actions. We work hard to be responsible members of the Pinelands Community and strive to abide by all laws and further, to honor the rules and policies of the Pinelands Commission.
- We hope to be seen for and judged for our actions alone and pledge to provide as much transparency and information about our activities as possible to the various governing agencies as well as the general public.
- When necessary, we will act as all responsible citizens should and report any abuses we witness to the the appropriate authorities.
- We will continue to advocate for our sport and work with the greater regional community to ensure that the Pineland's unique character remains intact for future generations to enjoy.

