

## Abstract

Public access to private and public lands and waters for recreational uses is more open in Sweden than in most other countries. *Allemans-rätten* gives everyone the usufructuary right to trespass on private lands, pick berries, mushrooms, and flowers, camp for a few nights etc. as long as no damage is done and respects are paid to gardens etc. However, this traditionally right has also had substantial influence on legislation and informal rules for sport fishing, snowmobiling, the use of other off-road motor vehicles, etc. For instance, Swedish legislation allows off-route snowmobiling on most private and public lands. Even Norway and Finland have much more restrictive legislation for snowmobile conveyance.

"Tragedy of the commons"-type problems now appear as a result of the unlimited access. In this report, we draw attention in particular to the widespread damage to the vulnerable ecology in the mountains and to the out-of-control situation as regards the use of motor vehicles in nature.

We propose several measures. The popularity of snowmobiles and their very frequent use in northern Sweden is now in itself an important political constraint to the implementation of restrictions. We propose that such restrictions (on snowmobiling or on off-route snowmobiling in an area) can be combined with purchasable licences (in the form of visible labels that are to be put on the snowmobile) that allow a limited number of exceptions. Management of resources for sport fishing must be more active, including catch restrictions, to save natural local fish resources. Much more attention must be paid to the development of sustainable practices in reindeer husbandry and in recreational uses of the mountain areas.