lights **Jtah OHV Law Highl**



Utah State Parks Off-Highway Vehicle Program



OHV Program Policy Declaration

It is the policy of this state to promote safety and protection for persons, property, and the environment connected with the use, operation, and equipment of off-highway vehicls, to promote uniformity of laws, to adopt and pursue a safety education program, and to develop trails and other facilities for the use of these vehicles.

Utah Code 41-22-1

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Definitions

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) - Any snowmobile, all-terrain type I vehicle, all-terrain type II vehicle, or motorcycle.

All-terrain Type I Vehicle (Type I ATV) - Any motor vehicle 52 inches or less in width, having an un-laden dry weight of 1500 pounds or less, traveling on three or more low pressure tires, having a seat designed to be straddled by the operator, and designed for or capable of travel over unimproved terrain.

All-terrain Type II Vehicle (Type II ATV) - Any motor vehicle other than a Type I ATV, snowmobile, or motorcycle designed for or capable of travel over unimproved terrain. Does not include golf carts, any vehicle specifically designed to carry a disabled person, any vehicle not designed specifically for recreational use, or farm tractors. (DOES include go-carts, sand rails, dune buggies, etc.)

Motorcycle - Any motor vehicle having a saddle for the use of the operator and designed to travel on no more than two tires.

Snowmobile - Any motor vehicle designed for travel on snow or ice and steered, and supported in whole or in part by skis, belts, cleats, runners, or low pressure tires.

Motor Vehicle - Any vehicle which is self-propelled.

Low-pressure Tire - Any pneumatic tire six inches or more in width, designed for use on wheels with rim diameter of 14 inches or less, and utilizing an operating pressure of 10 pounds per square inch or less as recommended by the vehicle manufacturer.

Operate - To control the movement of, or otherwise use an off-highway vehicle.

Operator - The person who is in actual physical control of an off-highway vehicle.

Owner - A person, other than a person with a security interest, having a property interest or title to an off-highway vehicle and entitled to the use and possession of that vehicle.

Public Land - Land owned or administered by any federal or state agency or any political subdivision of the state.

Cross Country - Across natural terrain and off an existing highway, road, route, or trail.

Register - The act of assigning a registration number to an off-highway vehicle.

Street or Highway - The entire width between boundary lines of every way or place of whatever nature, when any part of it is open to the use of the public for vehicular travel.







Registration

Any OHV operated or transported on public lands, roads or trails in the state of Utah must display a current OHV registration sticker. OHV registrations expire annually on the last day of the month the OHV was purchased. All OHV registrations are handled by the Utah Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

OHVs used on farms and ranches - or for other agricultural purposes - may be registered as an implement of husbandry. However, if the OHV is used for recreation on public lands, roads or trails, it shall also be registered for that purpose.

After receiving appropriate registration fees, the DMV will issue a registration sticker to the owner of the OHV. The sticker must be attached to the OHV in a visible location as follows:

- Motorcycles On the left fork.
- ATVs On the rear of the vehicle.
- Snowmobiles On the left side of the pan, tunnel or hood.
- All other off-highway vehicles On the rear of the vehicle.

Non-Resident Permits

Visitors from out-of-state are required to purchase a Non-Resident Permit for each OHV they bring into Utah. These permits can be purchased online at *ohv.utah.gov*, or in person. To find an in-person location, visit our list of permit vendors at: *stateparks.utah.gov/activities/off-highwayvehicles/non-resident-ohv-permits/*

Street Legal ATVs

Both Type I and Type II ATVs may be modified to become street legal and operate on designated public highways. For further information on requirements, visit *highwaypatrol.utah.gov/ safetyinspection*



Get educated! In Utah, youth operators between the ages of 8 and 15 must possess an OHV education certificate in order to operate an OHV on any public land, roads, or trails. Riders who are 16 or older may operate an OHV if they posses either a valid driver license or an approved education certificate.

A separate education certificate is required to operate snowmobiles. Visitors wishing to operate in Utah must possess a Utah State Parks OHV education certificate or equivalent from their home state. To get your child certified, visit *ohv.utah.gov*.

Adults, We Need Your Help!

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ATV TRA

Do you know a rider under 18 years old? That rider needs to be under direct adult supervision when they are riding on public land, trails, streets, or highways open to OHV use. This helps to ensure these young riders are staying safe and following the law.

When supervising, be sure the rider can be seen at a distance of 300 feet at most. This allows you to give advice and assistance if they need it.

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Get Your Head in Gear! Helmet Requirements

A helmet is the most important piece of safety gear available. Helmets are required for OHV operators and passengers under 18 years old who are riding Type I ATVs, off-highway motorcylces, or snowmobiles.

These helmets must be properly fitted, fasted, and have at least a "DOT Approved" safety rating, for motorized use. We strongly encourage everyone wear a helmet, even when it is not required.

Equipment Requirements

In Utah, we have specific equipment requirements to make sure that every OHV is in good working order. These include:

- Brakes adequate to stop and hold the machine.
- A headlight and taillight while being operated between sunset and sunrise.
- A muffler and spark arrestor. Snowmobiles are exempt from the spark arrestor requirement.
- All OHVs must have a red or orange safety flag attached in designated sand dunes. These flags must be at least 8 feet off level ground. Offhighway motorcycle operators can have a safety flag attached to their protective headgear with the flag at least 18 inches above their head.

Driving Under the Influence

OHVs are considered motor vehicles, so drug and alcohol restrictions apply. Driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol can result in stiff penalties such as fines, driver license restrictions, suspensions, jail time, and even impoundment of your OHV.

Operating Areas

Registered OHVs may be operated on public lands, roads, or trails that are signed or designated open to OHV use.

Along with Utah State Parks, the U.S Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and other federal and state land managing agencies, are responsible for designating OHV opportunities on these lands.

It is the operator's responsibility to know which areas are open to OHV use. Wilderness areas are off limits to all motorized travel. Most agencies provide travel maps indicating where OHV use is allowed. If you have questions, contact the local land managing agency for current trail maps and riding information.

Always respect private property by obtaining written permission from the landowner before entering.





Courtesy & Ethics

Each rider must be a good ambassador for the sport. Generally, this means learning to share the trails with other users, as well as learning to take proper care of the environment where they ride.

- Protect riding privileges by staying on the trail. Avoid riding in wet meadows, on stream banks, or on steep erodible slopes.
- Avoid riding over small trees and shrubs. Trampled vegetation not only looks bad, but also damages critical wildlife habitat and contributes to soil erosion.
- Always yield the right of way to non-motorized trail users. When encountering other hikers or horses on the trail, pull over and shut off the engine. Remove your helmet and let them pass.
- Ride in the middle of the trail to avoid widening it. Trail widening is unsightly and expensive to repair. Help keep our trails beautiful.
- Do not alter the manufacturer's muffler system. Loud exhaust systems are annoying to others using our public lands.
- Honor seasonal and permanent trail closures.
- When overtaking others, follow at a safe distance until they provide a signal to pass. Be courteous while passing. A little bump of the throttle can leave a shower of gravel and cloud of dust behind you.
- Never harass wildlife or domestic animals while riding. Always view wildlife from a respectful distance.
- Pack it in, pack it out.
- Wash machines after each ride to avoid spreading noxious weeds to new areas.

Safety Tips

By following a few simple rules, OHV riders can make certain every trip is safe and enjoyable. We recommend the following safe riding guidelines:

- Always ride in control. Never attempt anything beyond your skill level or machine capability.
- Always wear appropriate safety gear. At a minimum, this should include a helmet, shatter resistant eye protection, long sleeves, long pants, gloves, and boots covering the ankle.
- Only carry passengers if an OHV is specifically designed to do so. Off-road motorcycles and most ATVs are designed to be ridden by only one rider. Carrying passengers can alter the balance of the machine and lead to loss of control.
- Always let someone know where you are going, or take someone with you.
- Riders should be able to straddle the machine with a slight bend in the knee when both feet are on the footrests. They should also be able to adequately reach the controls while turning. Riding a machine that is too big is a common cause of injury.
- Be prepared for an emergency. Always carry a first-aid kit, survival equipment, tool kit, and spare parts when you ride. Don't forget extra water and fuel.
- Check the weather forecast before leaving home. For winter riders, always check the avalanche forecast before venturing into the backcountry. For more information, visit the Avalanche Center website at utahavalanchecenter.org.
- Never drink and ride. Alcohol and OHVs don't mix. This can create a deadly and illegal combination.





Trip Planning Checklist

Like anything else, a safe and enjoyable OHV ride starts with proper planning. Always give an itinerary to a family member or friend. Inspect your machine before every trip to make sure they are in top mechanical condition. Operators should be in good physical condition to withstand the rigors of an OHV riding experience.

Carrying a few basic items will also help in the event of an emergency. The following checklist will help make every trip fun and safe:

- Plenty of extra water and food
- Extra fuel and oil
- A set of basic tools that fit your machine
- A basic first-aid kit
- Extra spark plugs
- A flashlight
- A tow strap or rope
- Waterproof matches
- Duct tape and electrical tape
- A tire repair kit
- A map, compass, and GPS device
- Cell phone or two-way radios
- Camera to record your adventures

For extended trips you should also consider:

Spare throttle and brake cables

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- Brake fluid
- Master links for chain repair
- A quality survival kit
- A spare tire or tube

Avalanche Awareness

Have fun and stay safe in avalanche terrain by staying aware of possibly dangerous areas and educating yourself about avalanche safety. Check the avalanche conditions before heading out at *utahavalanchecenter.org*.

Snowmobile Complexes

There are 13 snowmobiling complexes with over 1,200 miles of riding experiences. Visit our snowmobile interactive map online at *ohv.utah.gov*.

Trail Host Program

Interested in becoming a representative for Off-Highway Vehicles? Do you enjoy working with the public? Become a certified OHV Trail Host through the Division of Parks and Recreation. This is a volunteer opportunity which allows you to:

- Educate members of the public about safe and responsible riding.
- Communicate area trail knowledge.
- Provide trail assistance to other riders.

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For more information contact our OHV Program at ohveducation@utah.gov, or visit our website at ohv.utah.gov.

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OHV Program:

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Facebook:

facebook.com/UtahStateParksOffHighwayVehicleProgram facebook.com/UtahStateParks

Twitter: @USPOHVProgram @UtahStateParks





Department of Motor Vehicles:

Salt Lake DMV 380 West 2880 South Salt Lake City, UT 84115 (801) 297-7780 *dmv.utah.gov*

Utah Avalanche Center: utahavalanchecenter.org

United States Forest Service:

324 25th St., Ogden, UT, 84401 (801)-625-5605

U.S Bureau of Land Management Utah State Office 440 200 S. #500, Salt Lake City, UT, 84101 (801)-539-4001

Utah State Parks Mission Statement:

To enhance the quality of life by preserving and providing natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.



