

What's New

The following information highlights Oregon's ATV laws and rules on public lands. It covers the most frequently asked questions about OHV/ATV activities in Oregon. Additional laws and rules apply for operating ATVs. Laws and rules may vary as they apply to private, county, state or federally owned lands and may have been changed since printing of this handbook.

The 2007 Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 101 making several new rules for quads (Class I) and off-road motorcycle (Class III) ATVs including:

- Mandatory safety training for all operators;
- Adult supervision of youth operators under age 16;
- Guidelines on how a youth rider should physically fit an ATV.

It is your responsibility to know the regulations for the area where you ride.

Free online training and further information may be found at: www.rideATVoregon.org or www.oregonOHV.org.

2. Oregon ATV Laws and Rules

2.1 Definitions

ATV – Oregon statute considers all vehicles intended for off-highway use to be all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). They are categorized into three classes:

Class I ATV – (quads, 3-wheelers)

- Vehicles 50 inches wide or less
- Dry weight of 800 pounds or less
- Saddle or seat
- Travels on three or more tires

Class II ATV – (Jeeps, Sand rails, SUVs, Side x Sides, etc.)

- Weighs more than a Class I ATV
(Ref: ORS 821.170 & 821.172)

Class III ATV – (motorcycles)

- Travels on two tires
- Dry weight less than 600 pounds

ATV Safety Education Card – Also referred to as an “Operator Permit,” the card signifies successfully completing OPRD’s On-line Safety Education Course. (Ref: ORS 801.193) All riders must possess an OPRD “ATV Safety Education Card” by:

- January 1, 2009 – for all persons 15 and under
- January 1, 2010 – for all persons 30 and under
- January 1, 2011 – for all persons 40 and under
- January 1, 2012 – for all persons 50 and under
- January 1, 2013 – for all persons 60 and under
- January 1, 2014 – all persons must have an ATV Safety Education Card.

The free on-line training course required to receive the ATV Safety Education Card can be found at www.rideATVoregon.org.

Land Manager – The public agency or private owner of land open to ATV riding.

Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) – Term used to describe all vehicles designed for off-highway use and classified as one of three classes of ATV in Oregon.

Operating Permit – Sticker placed on an ATV that is required for accessing designated lands open to the public.

Operator Permit – Card signifying successfully completing an OHV safety class—see “ATV Safety Education Card”

Rider Fit NEW! – A quad rider, under the age of 16, must meet all the following minimum physical size requirements in relationship to the vehicle:

Brake Reach (Figure 1): With hands place in the normal operating position and fingers straight out, the first joint (from the tip) of the middle finger will extend beyond the brake lever and clutch.

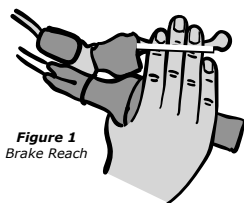


Figure 1
Brake Reach

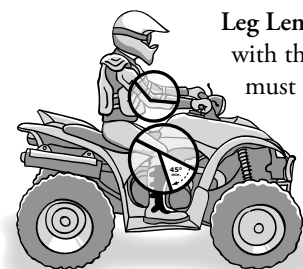


Figure 2
Knee Angle & Grip Reach

Leg Length (Figure 2): While sitting and with their feet on the pegs, the knee must be bent at least 45 degrees.

Grip Reach (Figure 2): While sitting upright on the quad with hands on the handle bars and not leaning forward, there must be a distinct angle between the upper arm and the forearm.

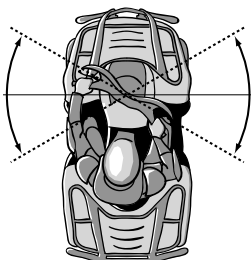


Figure 3
Handlebar Control

The rider must also be able to turn the handle bars from lock to lock (**Figure 3**) while maintaining grip on the handle bars and maintaining throttle and brake control.

Disabled riders are allowed to use prosthetic devices or modified or adaptive equipment to achieve rider fit.

Supervision – All youth operators under age 16 must be supervised by an adult. A supervisor is defined as a person who,

- is at least 18 years of age, and
- holds a valid ATV Safety Education Card, and
- is able to provide immediate assistance and direction to the child.

2.2 Here is What You Need to Ride in Oregon ...

Class I ATV (Quads, 3-wheelers)

Operators with a suspended or revoked driver's license may not operate any class, I, II, or III ATV.

Operator requirements:

- Supervision - All youth riders under age 16 must be supervised by an adult (see 2.1 "Definitions").
- Helmets - Riders and passengers under age 18 must wear a DOT approved helmet with the chin strap fastened.
- Training - All riders must possess an OPRD "ATV Safety Education Card" (see 2.1 "Definitions" for phase-in schedule).
- Rider Fit - A quad rider, under age 16, must meet all the Rider Fit rules (see 2.1 Definitions).

Vehicle requirements:

- Class I ATV Sticker (Operating Permit)
- USFS approved spark arrestor
- Muffler under 99db*
- Flag*
- Foot Pads
- Headlights and Taillights after dark

For a complete listing of requirements and more detail reference Section 2.5.

*In the Oregon Coast dunes, the vehicle's muffler must be at or below 93-97db, depending on the area. Flags are required on all OHVs operating on sand.

Exemption:

Operators using ATVs exclusively for farming, agriculture, forestry, nursery, or Christmas tree growing operations and being used on lands owned or leased by the owner of the vehicle are exempt from the above provisions.

Federal land managers are currently designating trails, roads, and open areas for ATV riding. Once the planning process is complete the managing agency will print maps showing the designated roads, trails and open areas.

It is the responsibility of everyone who operates an off-highway vehicle to know the rules and regulations for their chosen riding area before you hit the trail.

Class II ATV (Jeeps, Sand rails, SUVs, Side x Sides, etc.)

Operators with a suspended or revoked driver's license may not operate any class, I, II, or III ATV.

Operator requirements:

- Possess a valid driver license
- Possess liability insurance on the vehicle (ref: ORS 806.012 & 806.020)

Vehicles must have: (ref: OAR 735-116-0000)

- Class II ATV Sticker (Operating Permit)
- Operating muffler and exhaust system under 99db*, which prevents sparks
- Fire extinguisher
- Seat belts
- Flag*
- Roll bar or enclosed cab
- Seats and seat belts for driver and all passengers
- Windshield wipers
- Headlights and taillights after dark

During fire season vehicle operators must have:

- Shovel
- Fire extinguisher or one gallon of water

For a complete listing of requirements and more detail reference Section 2.5.

*In the Oregon Coast dunes, a vehicle's muffler must be at or below 93-97db, depending on the area. Flags are required on all ATVs operating on sand.

Exemption:

ATVs used exclusively for farming, agriculture, forestry, nursery, or Christmas tree growing operations and being used on lands owned or leased by the owner of the vehicle are exempt from the above provisions.

Driving 4x4 vehicles on roads, trails and dunes is fun and challenging. Always travel with another vehicle and be prepared for the conditions. Bring a shovel, fire extinguisher, water, jack, spare tire, tools, tow hooks and tow strap or winch. Always protect trees and your cable with a tree strap.

Stay on roads and trails designated open to Class II vehicles. Federal land managers are currently designating trails, roads, and open areas for ATV riding. Once the planning process is complete the managing agency will print maps showing the designated roads, trails and open areas.

It is the responsibility of everyone who operates an off-highway vehicle to know the rules and regulations for their chosen riding area before hitting the trail. Do not cut trees or modify the trail if a vehicle does not fit. Other obstacles will likely be further down the trail. Modifying the trail destroys the experi-

ence for others, is illegal and may cause closure of the trail or entire area to ATV use.

Class III ATV (Motorcycles)

Operators with a suspended or revoked driver's license may not operate any class, I, II, or III ATV.

Operator requirements:

- Be at least 7 years old – All Class III operators must be 7 years old or older.
- Supervision - All youth operators under age 16 must be supervised by an adult (see 2.1 “Definitions”).
- Helmets - Operators and passengers under age 18 must wear a DOT approved helmet with the chin strap fastened.
- Training - All operators must possess an OPRD “ATV Safety Education Card” (See 2.1 “Definitions” for phase-in schedule).

Vehicle must have:

- Class III ATV Sticker (Operating Permit)
- USFS approved spark arrestor
- Muffler under 99db*
- Flag*
- Foot Pads for rider and passenger
- Headlights and Taillights

For a complete listing of requirements and more detail reference Section 2.5.

*In the Oregon Coast dunes, a vehicle's muffler must be at or below 93-97db, depending on the area. Flags are required on all OHVs operating on sand.

Exemption:

ATVs exclusively for farming, agriculture, forestry, nursery, or Christmas tree growing operations and being used on lands owned or leased by the owner of the vehicle are exempt from the above provisions.

Federal land managers are currently designating trails, roads, and open areas for ATV riding. Once the planning process is completed the managing agency will print maps showing the designated roads, trails and open areas.

It is the responsibility of everyone who operates an off-highway vehicle to know the rules and regulations for their chosen riding area before you hit the trail.



ATV grant funds pay for OHV enforcement in OHV areas around the state. ATV funds paid for this Union County sheriff patrol vehicle.

2.3 Operating Permits, Titling, Registration and Insurance Requirements

Operating Permits: Operating permits are required for all ATVs riding off-road on public land. OPRD manages the ATV Permit Program and sells through more than 170 Permit Agents statewide. You can buy it where you play, or buy it directly from OPRD. To find the current Permit Agent list go to: www.oregonOHV.org

Titling & Registration: Oregon DMV does not require titling or registering Class I, II, and III ATVs used solely off-road. Class II and III ATVs used both off-road and on regular roads are required to be titled and registered. DMV offers optional titles, without registration, for class I, II and III ATVs used solely off-road. It is highly recommended to have all of your vehicles titled. A title is often required to finance or insure an ATV. A title also establishes legal ownership and assists police in the recovery of lost or stolen vehicles.

Insurance: Insurance is not required for Class I and III ATVs used solely off-road. Oregon's mandatory insurance law requires insurance for all Class II ATVs. It is highly recommended that you have insurance on your vehicle to protect yourself, the vehicle, and others if an accident does occur.

2.4 Frequently Asked Questions

This section is designed to address several frequently asked questions.

Can my quad or side-by-side become street legal?

A quad or side-by-side cannot become street legal under current Oregon law. These vehicles were never intended for on-road use. The engine emissions do not meet federal highway emission standards, do not have the proper equipment and cannot be retrofitted with equipment to become street legal.

Can Class III ATVs (motorcycles) become street legal with an added dual sport kit?

If your Class III ATV was manufactured for off-road use, the engine emissions were never tested to meet federal highway

emission standards. Manufacturer documents stating the vehicle meets federal emission standards are needed to become street legal. Factory made dual sports are tested for emission levels and are approved for roads with manufacturer documentation. The dual sport also needs DOT approved tires, signals, mirrors, metal gas tank and other equipment to be street legal.

Persons with Disabilities – Ocean Shores ATV Operating Permit

Ocean Shore ATV Operating Permits are issued by OPRD.

A person with a disability can establish they are entitled to a reasonable accommodation by providing OPRD a copy of physician's letter; DMV disabled placard; Veterans letter; or Oregon State Parks Special Access Pass. Once established, they can qualify for a permit to operate a quad (Class I ATV) on the ocean shore areas open to motorized use. However, upon request from an individual with a disability, OPRD may issue such a permit for sections closed to motorized use using criteria established under OAR 736-004-0062.

For more information specific to the Ocean Shore ATV Operating Permit, please contact (541) 265-9871 for the north coast (Clatsop-Lincoln), and (541) 888-9327 Ext 27, for the south coast (Lane-Curry).

Non-Residents:

ATV Safety Education Card: A valid ATV Safety Education Card issued by another state will be honored in Oregon in lieu of the Oregon ATV Safety Education Card.

ATV Operating Permit: An ATV Operating Permit issued in another state will be honored in Oregon if the issuing state also honors an Oregon ATV Operating Permit. No matter the Class of ATV, an operator must have a resident state ATV operating permit or an Oregon ATV Operating Permit to operate the ATV on public lands in Oregon.

An Oregon ATV Operating Permit may be issued to any class ATV owned by a resident of another state. Non-residents must still follow the same equipment and operation guidelines illustrated in Sections 2.2 and 2.5 of this handbook.

Private Property: These laws are not applicable when operating an OHV on private property.

Can I ride on regular roads?

Paved roads and two-lane gravel roads are generally closed to non-street legal OHVs unless posted open. Gravel roads, one and one-half lane wide or less, are generally open to OHVs. On Federal lands, all roads are closed unless posted open (as shown on their specific Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM)). You cannot turn at a crossroads and drive down a

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ATV Funds help OHV clubs maintain trails and develop new trails around the state. Pictured is the Trailsmen Club building a bridge crossing a creek in the Tillamook State Forest.

road closed to OHV use. Contact the local land manager for specific regulations.

If your Class II or III ATV is not street-legal (Class I ATV's cannot be made street legal), you can only ride on a regular road when you have to cross the road to reach a designated OHV area. Even then, you must move directly across the road (perpendicular to the flow of traffic).

Where do I get a permit for my snowmobile?

OPRD does not register or issue permits for snowmobiles. Snowmobiles are registered through Driver and Motor Vehicle Services (DMV). Please contact DMV at (503) 945-5000, or go to www.oregon.gov/odot/dmv/vehicle/tpsnow.shtml.



There are three separately managed dunes in Oregon, including the the Christmas Valley Dunes (above) in central Oregon, 70 miles southeast of Bend.

2.5 OHV Equipment Requirements

(ref: OAR 735-116-0000)

Fire Extinguisher. All vehicles, except motorcycles and multi-wheeled motorized vehicles, must carry a functional dry chemical type fire extinguisher with at least two pounds capacity that is approved by the Underwriters Laboratories or other acceptable testing agency.

Brakes. All vehicles must have disc or drum brakes that are operable and effective.

Chain Guard. Any vehicle equipped with a chain must have a guard designed to keep the chain under the vehicle if the chain fails.

Flag. All vehicles must display a highly visible red or orange flag when operating on sand (for example, Sand Lake, Oregon Dunes and Christmas Valley). The flag must:

- Be displayed at least nine feet from the ground; and
- Be at least eight inches wide and at least twelve inches long.

Floor Pan/Foot Pads. All vehicles, with the exception of motorcycles and multi-wheeled motorized vehicles, must have floor pan foot pads, or the equivalent, designed and mounted to keep the occupants feet within the frame of or from underneath the vehicle.

Fuel Tank. All fuel tanks must be:

- Securely mounted;
- Constructed of metal, plastic, or other industry safety approved material;
- Properly constructed for the carrying of fuel; and
- Connected securely and tightly.

Roll Bar. All vehicles, except motorcycles and multi-wheeled motorized vehicles, must have a roll bar or other enclosure that will support the vehicle's weight and protect the occupants' head(s) when the vehicle is resting on the roll bar or enclosure.

Seats. All vehicles must have a securely mounted seat for the driver and each passenger.

Seat Belts. All vehicles, except motorcycles and multi-wheeled motorized vehicles, must have securely mounted quick-release seat belts.

Windshield Wipers. All vehicles with a windshield, except motorcycles, must have a working windshield wiper.

Headlights and Taillights. At any time from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour after sunrise, all vehicles must display headlights and taillights. Motorcycles and multi-wheeled motorized vehicles must have a minimum of one headlight and one taillight.

Helmet (ref: ORS 821.202)

Operators and passengers of Class I and Class III ATVs must wear a helmet with the chin strap fastened if they are under age 18. The helmet must be approved by the Department of Transportation (DOT).

**Wearing a helmet properly includes
securing the chinstrap.**

Muffler (ref: ORS 467.030; OAR 340-035-0030)

Mufflers are required and must be maintained at 99 decibels or below, depending on the vehicle and the location.
The sound levels are as follows:

All of Oregon:

o Motorcycles	99 dB
o Front engine (SUV, Truck)	95 dB
o Mid & rear engine (quad, sand rail)	97 dB
Sand Lake Recreation Area:	97 dB
Oregon Dunes National Rec. Area:	93 dB

Spark Arrester

Class I and III ATVs are required to have United States Forest Service approved spark arresters or endcaps. Most mufflers or endcaps will be stamped “USFS Approved Spark Arrester” if it meets the requirement. Street legal motorcycles are factory equipped with mufflers that meet this requirement.

2.6 ATV Violations

OHV Specific Violations:

Class A Traffic Violation:

- Permitting dangerous operation of ATV (821.250)
Owner allows underage or intoxicated driver
- Operating motor vehicle on closed sections (390.678)
of the ocean shore

Class B Traffic Violations:

- Operating ATV in posted restricted area (821.192)
- Committing unlawful damage (821.280/285)
- Dangerous operation of ATV (821.290)
- Operating ATV with loaded firearm (821.240)

Class C Traffic Violations:

- Operating ATV w/o required equipment (821.040)
- Operating improperly equipped ATV (821.220)
- Operating ATV w/o off-road permit (821.195)
- Operating Class I/III ATV (821.170/172)
w/o driving privilege
- Hunting or harassing animals from ATV (821.260)
- Operating an ATV without proper lighting (821.230)

Class D Traffic Violations:

- Fail to carry out of state ATV permit (821.142)
- Operating Class I/III ATV on hwy/railroad (821.191)
- Failure to wear helmet on ATV under 18 (821.202)
- Endangering Class I/III ATV rider or (821.203)
passenger under 18 who is riding w/o helmet
- Endangering Class I/III operator (821.292)

(Parent allows child under 16 to operate ATV without ATV Safety Education Card, or the child is not supervised.)

- Operating Class II/III ATV in prohibited snow area (821.295)
- Treble damages for damage to property (821.310)
(Owner of vehicle liable to 3x amount of any damage to trees, shrubs, crops or other property injured as result of travel of vehicle.)

Other Motor Vehicle Violations:

- Driving while suspended or revoked (811.182)
- Open container of alcohol (811.170)
- Operation with obstructing passenger (811.190)
- DUII (813.010)
- Driving uninsured (Class II only) (806.010)
- Fail to carry proof of Insurance (Class II only) (806.012)

This list does not include all of the violations that you could face while operating your ATV. It is your responsibility to know the rules of the land manager and the laws of the state. For more information, go to:

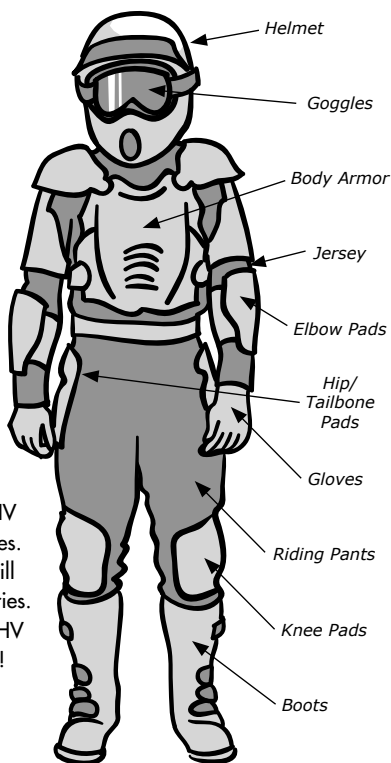
www.oregonOHV.org

3. ATV Safety and Training

3.1 Personal Safety Equipment

The first step is to have the right equipment—for you, not just your ATV. Below are examples of proper equipment for a Class I and III ATV rider:

Riding an ATV can result in injuries. This equipment will not prevent all injuries. You operate an ATV at your own risk!



Operating an OHV can result in injuries. This equipment will not prevent all injuries. You operate an OHV at your own risk!