

CALIFORNIA OFF-HIGHWAY ADVENTURES

OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION DIVISION CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS



OHV.PARKS.CA.GOV

WELCOME!

California State Parks welcomes you to the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Program. Did you know that California State Parks manages the largest off-highway recreation program in the United States? Established over 40 years ago, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, in partnership with local, state, and federal agencies, offers a wide variety of off-highway adventures to suit every skill level and age while protecting California's natural and cultural resources.

Off-highway motor vehicle recreation is a great way to spend quality time with friends and family and encourages healthy physical activity. Motorized recreation opens the door for millions of people to access and enjoy California's great outdoors. To help you better identify and enjoy off-highway vehicle recreation opportunities, this Guide to California Off-Highway Adventures provides a listing of trails and areas designated for motorized recreation.

People enjoy off-highway recreation in California, and appreciate the need to protect our environment and preserve access to the outdoors. Those traveling off-highway include a broad range of recreationists as diverse as the terrain of California.

Regardless of whether you enjoy traveling with two wheels, four wheels, hooves or your feet, we all share a common desire: the appreciation of California's extraordinary natural landscape and love of the outdoors. Respecting one another's right to recreate in their own personal and responsible way and following basic trail etiquette will go far in reducing use conflicts and enhancing your off-highway experience, wherever, and whatever it might be.

So jump in and join us for a world of adventure that lies just down the road. Of all the roads you take in life, make sure some of them are dirt! Fun and excitement provided at no extra charge.



MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division is to provide leadership statewide in the area of off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation; to acquire, develop, and operate state-owned vehicular recreation areas; and to otherwise provide for a statewide system of managed OHV recreational opportunities through funding to other public agencies.

The OHMVR Division works to ensure quality recreational opportunities remain available for future generations by providing for education, conservation, and enforcement efforts that balance OHV recreation impacts with programs that conserve and protect cultural and natural resources.

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QR CODE INSTRUCTIONS:
Snap a picture of this code with your smart phone's QR application to learn more about California Off-Highway Adventures.

treadlightly!

The OHMVR Division is committed to the principles of Tread Lightly! Being environmentally responsible isn't difficult, but it does involve some basic principles. These principles are outlined in the Tread Lightly! Pledge.

Travel responsibly

Respect the rights of others

Educate yourself

Avoid sensitive areas

Do your part



FUNDING A STATEWIDE OHV PROGRAM

The OHV Trust Fund is comprised entirely of funds generated in the course of OHV recreation, including:

- Gas taxes on gasoline used for OHV recreation on public lands.
- OHV Green/Red Sticker registration fees and non-resident permit fees.
- Entrance fees to the State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs).

GET INVOLVED; BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

If you are passionate about OHV recreation, and want to ensure your opportunities remain open for years to come, become a volunteer today!



As a volunteer, you can help sustain a community of informed, caring, and responsible recreationists. Your contribution will ensure off-highway vehicle recreation opportunities remain available today and for future generations.

Volunteer opportunities are diverse and include:

- Trail Patrol/Monitoring/Maintenance.
- Public Outreach (OHV fairs, community and school functions, etc.).
- Weekend Information Booths.
- Educational Trail Rides.
- Special Projects/Events.
- Resource Protection.
- OHV Safety Course Trainer or Assistant.
- Campground Host.

Contact the land manager at your favorite OHV area to find out about volunteer opportunities, or the OHMVR Division at 916.324.4442 or visit ohv.parks.ca.gov.



SUSTAINING A STATEWIDE OHV PROGRAM

The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division of California State Parks operates and funds 8 SVRAs throughout the state and provides funding for local, state and federal agencies and partners for a system of managed OHV programs.

The funds distributed through the Grants Program are used to develop, operate and maintain OHV areas and facilities, including trail improvement and upkeep, care and cleaning of OHV staging areas, environmental monitoring, law enforcement, and education and safety programs.

Combined efforts at all levels of government, joined with contributions from thousands of volunteers who care

CHILDREN IN THE OUTDOORS

The mission of the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights is to encourage California's children to participate in outdoor activities and discover their heritage.

OHV recreation areas fit perfectly with this mission. In some areas, naturalists and recreation staff lead programs such as bird watching, bike rides, and nature hikes specifically designed with children in mind. Brochures, signs, or other materials may allow for "self-guided" outdoor adventures. Call ahead to the area you plan to visit to learn what resources and programs may be offered during your visit.

Every child should have the opportunity to:

- Play in a safe place
- Explore nature
- Learn to swim
- Go fishing
- Follow a trail
- Camp under the stars
- Ride a bike
- Go boating
- Connect with the past
- Plant a seed

Even when organized activities are not provided by land managers, kids will benefit from the opportunity to simply explore new areas, camp under the stars, hike, and just generally play in the outdoors. Studies have shown that children who spend time in the outdoors and participate in outdoor activities are more creative, healthier, do better in school, have better social skills and self-image, and lead more fulfilled lives.

deeply about the places they recreate, help to ensure your favorite trail or viewpoint will be there for your children and your grandchildren to enjoy.

The founding principle that underlies California's statewide OHV program is SUSTAINABILITY. Maintaining OHV areas in good condition and preventing environmental damage are central to the success of the program.

The OHMVR Division of California State Parks has been charged by the California Legislature to manage existing and future OHV facilities to sustain long-term use. This commitment is highlighted and affirmed in California State Parks' strategic plan goal to: "Protect and preserve the resources and facilities in the existing State Park System." The OHMVR Division provides:

- Youth oriented programs.
- OHV maps, brochures, and website information.
- Safety training programs.
- Funding to maintain areas and trails.
- Protection of natural and cultural resources.
- Volunteer opportunities.
- Funding to Law Enforcement agencies.

Children and Safety

Appropriate training is a critical factor in the safe operation of OHVs and the prevention of accidents. Courses for children have been designed for operation of motorcycles, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). These classes are taught by employees and volunteers, as well as private instructors, and are available at local, state and federal areas throughout the state.

The OHMVR Division pays for any youth under 18 years who enrolls in a certified ATV safety training program taught anywhere in the state. Free ATV safety training may also be available from the manufacturer for adults and their families who have purchased a new ATV.

The OHMVR Division also sponsors the Off-Highway PALS program. This program pairs at-risk youth participating in the California Police Activities League with instructors and equipment (ATVs, motorcycles and snowmobiles). The program uses the appeal of OHV recreation as a "gateway activity" to welcome young people into a learning environment that promotes environmentally responsible and safe recreation. In addition to building an understanding and appreciation of the outdoors, the program also instills confidence, develops team-building skills, and fosters positive relationships with law enforcement.



RESOURCES

Providing long-term, sustainable OHV recreation requires thoughtful management of the environment. Land managers constantly work to monitor and protect habitat, maintain roads and trails to prevent erosion, preserve vegetated areas, and prevent disturbance to endangered species.

By carefully monitoring plant and animal populations, land managers adjust the way an area is used to ensure a healthy ecosystem.

During your OHV recreation experience, you may encounter trails that have been rerouted, fencing, gates, signs, and closed areas designed to protect natural and cultural resources. Please respect these protection measures and help ensure high-quality, sustainable OHV recreation opportunities for years to come.

We share our OHV areas with a wide variety of plants, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds who call these areas home. Help protect your OHV opportunities.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Whether it is a small grinding rock or a hill covered with mining debris, please be respectful of the past and help protect these precious pieces of history.

- Please do not tamper, remove, or destroy any cultural resources.
- Moving cultural resources is not only illegal but it destroys the integrity of the site and erases part of the history of the area.
- Become a trained volunteer with the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program and protect archaeological and historical



resources by regularly visiting sites and recording changes.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Travel Responsibly

- Don't create new routes or expand existing trails.
- Comply with all signs and respect barriers.
- Switchbacks maintain trail stability; don't take shortcuts.
- Pack out what you pack in.

Water Quality

- Avoid sensitive areas such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands and streams.
- Cross streams only at designated fording points or where the trail crosses the stream.
- Camp at least 200 feet from water.
- Use restrooms where available or portable toilet devices (WAG bag) and pack out your waste. If other options are not available, bury solid waste in 6 to 8-inch holes at least 200 feet from water sources.

Vehicle Fluids

- Keep your OHV well maintained with regular tune-ups.
- Carry a spill kit or WAG bag in case of a sudden oil leak.

SAFETY TIPS – KNOW BEFORE YOU GO AND ONCE YOU ARRIVE

To make your trip enjoyable, please consider these helpful tips:

- Always tell someone of your travel plans. Do not assume your cell phone will work.
- Buddy up with two or more vehicles. Traveling solo can leave you vulnerable.
- Contact the land manager for maps, area restrictions, closures, and permit requirements.
- Determine if areas you plan to visit allow your vehicle type, e.g., motorcycle, ATV, full sized vehicles, etc.
- Be prepared with tools, supplies, spares, and a spill kit.
- Prepare for the unexpected. Bring appropriate clothing and gear for the season.
- Check the weather forecast before your trip; weather can change rapidly.
- Pack water, food, sunscreen, flashlight, and first aid kit.
- Know your limitations. Watch your time, your fuel, and your energy.
- Be considerate of others on the road or trail.
- Operate only on trails or use areas designated for OHV recreation.
- Yield the right of way to those passing you or traveling uphill.



Motorized vehicles should yield to mountain bikers, hikers, and horses.

- Avoid wheel spin.
- Crushing vegetation is illegal.
- Keep speeds low around crowds and in camping areas.
- Keep the noise and dust down.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Keep control of your pets.
- Protect future opportunities by practicing responsible riding and driving.
- Know your limitations. Watch your time, your fuel, and your energy.



OFF-HIGHWAY RULES AND REGULATIONS

POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL

Whether on-highway or off-highway, it is illegal to possess an open container while riding in or operating an OHV on public land.

SPARK ARRESTERS/MUFFLERS

OHVs must be equipped with a U.S. Forest Service approved spark arrester or an adequate muffler, maintained in effective working order.

LIGHTS

Any vehicle operated between sunset and sunrise must display at least one headlight that enables an operator to see clearly 200 feet ahead and one red taillight visible for 200 feet to the rear.

ATV REQUIREMENTS

- Helmets Required: Anyone on an ATV must be wearing an approved helmet.
- Double Riding: A passenger may not ride on an ATV unless the ATV was designed by the manufacturer to carry a passenger.

ATV Safety Certificate Requirement

18 years and older:
A safety certificate is not mandatory to operate an ATV. It is recommended.
Ages 14-17:
All riders ages 14 to 17 must possess an ATV Safety Certificate, or be under the direct supervision of a parent, guardian, or other adult who has completed an ATV safety course and has an ATV Safety Certificate in his/her possession.
Ages 13 and under:
All riders 13 and under MUST BE DIRECTLY SUPERVISED AT ALL TIMES. Either the child or the child's parent, legal guardian, or someone who is authorized by the parent or legal guardian to supervise the child, must possess an ATV Safety Certificate.

SOUND REQUIREMENT

On January 1, 2003, California OHV noise regulations changed. If your OHV was manufactured:

Before January 1, 1986	101 dbA
On or after January 1, 1986	96 dbA
If your competition* OHV was manufactured:	
Before January 1, 1998	101 dbA
On or after January 1, 1998	96 dbA

* Competition OHVs are those that are not manufactured to comply with EPA noise or California emission standards. For information on the designation of your OHV, refer to your owner's manual or contact your local dealership.

WINTER RECREATION PROGRAM

California offers spectacular winter recreation opportunities.

Over Snow Vehicle Program

The Over Snow Vehicle Program supports both motorized and non-motorized winter recreation through a system of 34 trailheads and 26 groomed trail systems providing more than 1,700 miles of trails for snowmobiles and other snow-related activities. Both the OHMVR Division and U.S. Forest Service share the cost of implementing the Program, which provides for trail grooming, and maintaining access and upkeep of staging areas where the public can unload their winter recreation equipment (snowmobiles, dog sleds, skis, etc.), or just park for the day and enjoy the snow.

California SNO-PARKS

California also operates 18 SNO-PARKS which provide areas to park and engage



In non-motorized winter recreation and general snow play. Seven of the SNO-PARKS also serve as shared trailheads for snowmobile and other recreational vehicles modified for use on snow. A daily or seasonal SNO-PARK permit is required. Permits are available online and at vendor locations throughout the state. To obtain a SNO-PARK permit, which is required for parking, please visit ohv.parks.ca.gov/snoparks.



