

7. Protect Your Privilege

Oregon's many great riding areas need respect and care. In some cases, it is simply a matter of treading lightly, staying on designated trails, packing out your own trash and being responsible. In other cases, trails need serious work.

Ride Responsibly

Riding responsibly is the best way to protect your ATV access in Oregon.

- Know where you are permitted to ride and where you are not.
- Respect private property and closed areas. Private property or timberlands are often located adjacent or within OHV riding areas.
- Riders should never go onto private land unless they have permission from the land owner or the land is posted open to ATV use.
- Damage from OHV use cannot be effectively managed and maintained on private lands, and reflect negatively on the perception of OHV users and the sport in general.
- Avoid wet areas and waterways. They are a vital resource for plants and animals.
- If you must cross water, ride carefully and only at designated spots.
- Cutting switchbacks and taking shortcuts damage trails and cause erosion.
- Share the trails and make friends with other trail users. Respect their rights to the trail, too.
- Respect seasonal closures. They are needed to minimize damage to the trails and allow time for animals to reproduce undisturbed.
- View animals from a distance. They use valuable energy reserves when they flee.
- Know and respect the sound limits where you ride.
- Keep your RPMs and speed down and steady when you are around non-riders.
- Always use a spark arrester. It doesn't sacrifice power, but can save the forest from fires.
- Maintain your exhaust system. Remember, noise doesn't equal horsepower. Too little exhaust backpressure can actually reduce power and cause engine damage.
- If you pack it in, pack it out. Trash is an eyesore that endangers wildlife.

Remember, even biodegradable materials such as food scraps take time to break down.

Volunteer

Please do your part to maintain the trails. Many clubs and land managers organize volunteer trail work parties throughout the year. By participating, you can show your interest and dedication to ATV recreation; you can learn about terrain, soils and trail layout. Working on foot and “in the dirt” can also improve your riding skills. Most work parties end with rides for participants.

Contact your local club or riding area land manager to see what work parties are scheduled. They depend on volunteers like you.

Land Use — What You Can Do

As an ATV rider, your involvement is the greatest resource to keeping land open to ATV recreation. Here are some ways to get involved:

- Attend meetings with OHV clubs, land use managers and legislators. Let land managers and legislators know how much you enjoy public lands.
- Write to your state or federal land manager. A simple letter explaining how much you enjoy trail riding can have significant impact. Express your opinion and let your love of the sport be known.
- Write letters to your state and federal representatives. Let them know the importance of supporting motorized recreation.
- Attend trail maintenance work parties. Contact your local club or the OHV coordinator for more information.

