

2. Oregon ATV Laws and Rules

Definitions

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

Class I ATV – (Quads, 3-wheelers)

- Vehicles 50 inches wide or less
- Dry weight of 1,200 pounds or less
- Uses handlebars for steering
- Has a seat designed to be straddled
- Travels on three or more pneumatic tires that are 6" or more in width and has wheels with a rim diameter 14" or less.

Class II ATV – (Jeeps, Sand Rails, SUVs)

- Weighs more than or is wider than a Class I ATV
- Is not a Class IV ATV
- Is actually being driven off road

Class III ATV – (Motorcycles)

- Travels on two tires

Class IV ATV – (side-by-sides)

- Is 65" wide or less at its widest point
- Has a dry weight of 1,800 pounds or less
- Has nonstraddle seating
- Has a steering wheel for steering control
- Travels on four or more pneumatic tires that are six inches or more in width and has wheels with a rim diameter 14" or less.
- Effective July 1, 2012, youth under 16 operating a Class IV ATV will need to obtain an operator permit (ATV Safety Education Card).

ATV Safety Education Card – Formerly referred to as an “operator permit,” the card signifies successfully completing an OPRD approved online safety education course.

Youth must also complete a hands-on training or evaluation course.

(Ref: ORS 801.193) Effective January 1, 2014, all operators of Class I or Class III ATVs must possess an OPRD “ATV Safety Education Card.”

Online training course options can be found at www.oregon.gov/oprd/ATV/pages/online_training.aspx

Hands-on courses can be found at www.rideATVoregon.org/training

Hands-on Evaluation is an ATV rider course provided by a trained evaluator, and which assumes the rider already has the skills to safely control an ATV, and the rider can demonstrate those skills to the evaluator.

Hands-on Training is an ATV rider course provided by a trained and certified instructor and which assumes no previous ATV knowledge or skills

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

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) – Describes all those vehicles designed for off-highway use and which are classified as one of four 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 successful completion of OHV safety class. See “ATV Safety Education Card.”

Rider Fit – A set of physical or visual measurements that a youth under the age of 16 must attain to legally operate a Class I or a Class IV ATV.

Supervisor – 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 direction and assistance to the child.

Riding In Oregon

Class I ATV (Quads, 3-wheelers)

Operators with a suspended or revoked driver’s license may not operate any Class I, II, III, or IV ATV.

Operator requirements:

Supervision All youth operators under age 16 must be supervised by an adult (see “Definitions”).

Helmets Operators and passengers under age 18 must wear a DOT-approved motorcycle helmet with the chin strap fastened.

Training All operators must possess a valid OPRD “ATV Safety Education Card” (See “Definitions”). Youth under age 16 must also have hands-on training.

If your child took a hands-on training course prior to 2012 and would like to get their ATV Safety Education Card endorsed, call the ATV hotline at 877-772-3359.

Rider Fit A Class I operator under the age of 16 must meet all the following minimum physical size requirements in relationship to the vehicle:

Brake Reach:

With hands placed 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.

Leg Length:

While the operator is sitting and with feet on the pegs, the knee must be bent at least 45 degrees.

Grip Reach:

While the operator is sitting upright on the quad with hands on the handlebars and not leaning forward, there must be a distinct angle between the upper arm and the forearm. Also, the operator must be able to turn the handlebars from lock to lock while maintaining grip on the handlebars and maintaining throttle and brake control.

Disabled operators are allowed to use prosthetic devices or modified or adaptive equipment to achieve Rider Fit.

Exemptions:

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.

Vehicle requirements:

- Class I ATV Sticker (Operating Permit)
- USFS approved spark arrester
- Muffler under 99db**
- Flag (Required when operating on sand)
- Foot pads
- Headlights and taillights after dark
- For a complete listing of requirements and more detail, see OHV Equipment Requirements.

***In the Oregon Coast dunes, a vehicle's muffler must be at or below 93-97db, depending on the area.*

Class II ATV (Jeeps, Sand Rails, SUVs)

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

Operator requirements:

- Possess a valid driver license.
- Operators and passengers under 18 must wear a DOT-approved helmet with the chin strap fastened (unless in a registered, street legal vehicle).
- Possess liability insurance on the vehicle (ref: ORS 806.012 & 806.020).
- Safety restraints must be worn by all occupants under 16.

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

- Class II ATV Sticker (Operating Permit)
- An operating muffler and exhaust system under 99db,** which prevents sparks
- Fire extinguisher
- Flag (Required when operating on sand)
- Roll bar or enclosed cab
- Seats and seat belts for driver and all passengers
- Windshield wipers (if equipped with a windshield)
- Headlights and taillights

During fire season vehicle operators must have:

- Shovel
- Fire extinguisher

For more detail and a complete list of requirements see OHV Equipment Requirements (p.15).

***In the Oregon Coast dunes, a vehicle's muffler must be at or below 93-97db, depending on the area.*

Class III ATV (Motorcycles)

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

Operator requirements:

- 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 "Definitions").
- Helmets-Operators and passengers under age 18 must wear a DOT-approved motorcycle helmet with the chin strap fastened.
- Training-All operators must possess a valid OPRD "ATV Safety Education Card" (See "Definitions").
- Youth under age 16 must also have hands-on training.
- If your child took a hands-on training course prior to 2012 and would like to get their ATV Safety Education Card endorsed, call the ATV hotline at 877-772-3359.

Vehicles must have:

- Class III ATV Sticker (Operating Permit)
- Operating muffler and exhaust system under 99db,* which prevents sparks
- Flag (Required when operating on sand)
- Foot pegs for rider and passenger
- Headlights and taillights after dark

For a complete listing of requirements and more detail, reference Section 2.5 OHV Equipment Requirements.

**In the Oregon Coast dunes, a vehicle's muffler must be at or below 93-97db, depending on the area.*

Class IV ATV (side-by-sides)

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

Operator requirements:

Training All Class IV operators must have a valid driver license with the exception of vehicles whose manufacturer recommendation allows for younger ages.

Example: the Polaris RZR 170 manufacturer recommendation is for riders 10 years old and over. A youth 10 and older is allowed to operate this vehicle if that youth has been trained, has a valid ATV Safety Education Card, and properly fits the machine.

Rider Fit A Class IV ATV operator under 16 years of age must meet all the following minimal physical size requirements in relationship to the vehicle:

Leg Length:

While sitting in the normal operating position and the safety restraints securely fastened around the operator, the operator's feet must be able to fully operate all foot controls.

Arm Length:

While sitting in the normal operating position and the safety restraints securely fastened around the operator, the operator's hands must be able to fully operate all hand controls.

- Safety restraints must be worn by all riders under 16
- Helmets-Operators and passengers under age 18 must wear a DOT approved motorcycle helmet with the chin strap fastened.
- Supervision-All youth operators under age 16 must be supervised by an adult (see "Definitions").

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

- Class IV ATV Sticker (Operating Permit)
- Operating muffler and exhaust system under 99db,** which prevents sparks
- Fire extinguisher
- Flag (Required when operating on sand)
- Roll bar or enclosed cab
- Seats and seat belts for driver and all passengers
- Windshield wipers if equipped with a windshield
- Headlights and tail lights after dark

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.

For more detail and a complete list of requirements see OHV Equipment Requirements (p.15).

***In the Oregon Coast dunes, the vehicle's muffler must be at or below 93-97db, depending on the area.*



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

Operating Permits, Titles, Registration & Insurance

Operating Permits: Operating permits are required for all ATVs riding off-road on public land. OPRD manages the ATV Permit Program and sells permits online at <https://store.oregonstateparks.org> and through more than 170 permit agents statewide. A current permit agent list can be found at www.oregonOHV.org

Titles & Registration: Oregon DMV does not require titling or registering Class I, II, III or IV ATVs used solely off-road. However, 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, III, or IV 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.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I ride two-up (double) on my ATV or off-road motorcycle?



The ATV must have a seat and a floor pan or foot pegs (OAR 735-116-0000). Motor vehicle laws also state that the passenger cannot be in the operator's lap or embrace (ORS 811.190). This is a Class D traffic violation.

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

No. These vehicles were never intended for "on road" use. They 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 exclusively for off-road use, its engine emissions do not meet federal highway emission standards. Manufacturer documents stating that the vehicle meets federal emission standards are needed.

With manufacturer documentation, factory-made "dual sport" motorcycles can be tested and approved for roads.

Where can I get a disability permit to ride my ATV on the ocean shore?

Ocean Shore ATV Operating Permits are issued by OPRD. Disabled individuals may qualify for a permit to operate a quad (Class I ATV) or side-by-side (Class IV ATV) on certain ocean shore areas. For more information, please contact (541) 563-8504 for the north coast (Clatsop-Lincoln), and (541) 888-9324 Ext 227, for the south coast (Lane-Curry).

I'm not a resident. Do I need Oregon's ATV Safety Education Card?

A valid ATV Safety Education Card issued by the resident state will be honored in Oregon in lieu of the Oregon ATV Safety Education Card if that state honors Oregon's card (see below).

I'm not a resident. Do I need Oregon's ATV Operating Permit?

An ATV Operating Permit issued in another state is honored in Oregon if the issuing state also honors an Oregon ATV Operating Permit.



Regardless of 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 follow the same equipment and operation guidelines illustrated in "Riding In Oregon" and "OHV Equipment Requirements" of this handbook.

As of October 2016, Oregon honors permits from the following states:

Alaska	Arizona	California	Idaho
Indiana	Missouri	Nevada	North Dakota
Pennsylvania	South Carolina	Utah	Vermont
Washington			

These states currently have an OHV registration program that can issue a plate or a decal (or both) that serves as their ATV permit to operate on or off-road. This plate may or may not make the OHV street legal to be operated on public roads and highways. Oregon recognizes other states' OHV plates or ATV permits in lieu of the Oregon ATV permit when operating off-road.

Do these laws apply on private property?

These laws are not applicable when operating an OHV on private property not open to the public.

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 U.S. Forest Service lands, all roads are closed unless posted open (as shown on their specific Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM)). Contact the local land manager for specifics.

If your Class II or III ATV is not street legal (Class I and Class IV ATVs cannot be made street legal), you can ride on a regular road only 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). You cannot turn at a crossroads and drive down a road closed to OHV use.

Where do I get a permit for my snowmobile?

Snowmobiles are registered through ODOT's Driver and Motor Vehicle Services (DMV). Please contact DMV at (503) 945-5000, or go to

www.oregon.gov/odot/dmv/vehicle/snowmobile.shtml

Where can I get my OHV sound-tested to make sure it's not too loud?

Most land managers listed on the Where to Ride map (pp 24-49) have a sound meter. Contact them the next time you plan on visiting the area. Many OHV clubs also have sound meters and checks are often conducted at OHV events.



The Christmas Valley Dunes in central Oregon, 70 miles southeast of Bend, is one of three separately managed dunes in Oregon.

OHV Equipment Requirements

(OAR 735-116-0000)

Fire Extinguisher Class II and IV ATVs 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 (such as Sand Lake, Oregon Dunes and Christmas Valley). The flag must:

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

Floor Pan/Foot Pads All vehicles must have floor pans, except Class I and Class III ATVs that must have foot pads (or the equivalent), designed and mounted to keep the occupant's feet within the frame, or away from the undercarriage of the vehicle.

Fuel Tank All fuel tanks must be

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

Roll Bar Class II and IV ATVs 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 Class II and IV ATVs must have securely mounted quick-release seat belts for the driver and each passenger.

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

Headlights and Tail Lights At any time from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour after sunrise, all vehicles must display headlights and tail lights. Class I and III ATVs must have a minimum of one headlight and one tail light.

Helmet (ORS 821.202) Operators and passengers of all classes of ATVs must wear a DOT-approved helmet with the chin strap fastened if they are under age 18 (unless in a registered street legal Class II vehicle with a roof or roll bar).

Wearing a helmet properly includes securing the chinstrap.

Muffler (ORS 467.030; OAR 340-035-0030) Mufflers in Oregon must be maintained at 99 decibels (db). Lower sound levels are required at Sand Lake Recreation Area (97db) and the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area (93db).

Spark Arrester

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

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:

- Unlawful operation of snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle on highway or railroad (821.190)
- 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)

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. FMI: www.oregonOHV.org

- Operating ATV w/o off-road permit (821.195)
- Operating Class I/III ATV w/o driving privilege (821.170/172)
- 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)
- Failure to wear helmet on ATV if under 18 (821.202)
- Endangering Class I/III ATV rider or passenger under 18 who is riding w/o helmet (821.203)
- 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 value of trees, shrubs, crops or other property damaged as result of travel of vehicle.)

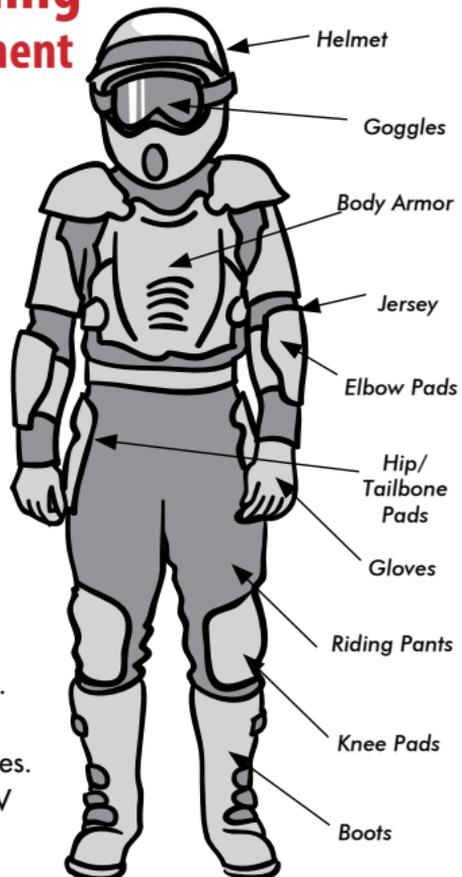
Other Motor Vehicle Violations:

- 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)

3. ATV Safety Training Personal Safety Equipment

The first step is to have the right equipment—for you, not just your ATV.

Proper Gear →



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