

Class IV ATV (side-by-sides)

Safety Training

Side-by-sides are a relatively new and an increasingly popular form of off-road recreation. Because they have restraint systems as well as rollover protection systems, they may also be safer than quads or motorcycles. As with Class II ATVs, there are no Oregon training requirements for side-by-sides unless the operator is under the age of 16 (see “Riding in Oregon”).

Online (Required for youth)

All Class IV youth operators under 16 must have a state-issued ATV Safety Education Card, which is good for life. To obtain your card, take a free online training course at rideatvoregon.org that covers laws and rules; rider readiness; safe riding techniques; safety tips for riding in Oregon’s dunes, desert and forests; trail etiquette; riding ethics; and environmental concerns.

For riders with no internet services or access to a public library, call 877-7SAFELY (877-772-3359) to request a Correspondence Course.

Hands-On (Required for youth)

Some side-by-side manufacturers have a recommended operating age under sixteen. Some course providers evaluate youth in appropriate sized machines. There are also training opportunities for adults. See “Training Providers” to contact them directly for course information.

4. ATVs and Hunting

ATVs are becoming popular vehicles for hunting. Hunters must follow the same rules as other ATV operators. This includes displaying an ATV operating permit, carrying an ATV Safety Education Card, observing the same training and equipment requirements, adhering to sound level regulations and riding only on designated routes.

Scouting and retrieving game must be done on designated trails and roads. Harvested game can be carried by hand to a road or trail and then taken by vehicle. Game shouldn’t be shot if it can’t be packed out. Leaving a new set of crosscountry tracks invites others to follow and creates a dead end trail for future riders.

Rules

- No hunting or harassing animals from a snowmobile, ATV or passenger vehicle.
Hunting Exception: A qualified disabled hunter may obtain an “Oregon Disabilities Hunting and Fishing Permit” to hunt from a motor-propelled vehicle, except while the vehicle is in motion or on any public road or highway, or within Cooperative Travel Management Areas as per General Hunting Regulations published by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.
- Do not shoot from an ATV.
- Do not shoot from or across a public right-of-way or railroad right-of-way.
- Do not carry loaded firearms on an ATV.
- Note: A loaded firearm is one having live ammunition in the chamber or arrows out of a quiver (ORS 821.240) A person who has a license to carry a concealed handgun is allowed to carry a loaded firearm on an ATV.
- Do not cast artificial light from a motor vehicle while in possession of a weapon; or cast an artificial light upon a game mammal, predatory animal or livestock from within 500 feet of a motor vehicle while in possession of a weapon.
- Always carry your ATV Safety Education Card.

Tips

- Stay on designated trails and roads. Respect closed roads and trails.
- Know and understand the meaning of trail signs and vehicle symbols.
- Remember that other hunters may be in the area on foot. Respect other hunters’ rights.
- Do not drink while riding ATVs and hunting. Laws concerning driving under the influence of intoxicants also apply to ATVs.
- Limit ATV use in and around campgrounds. Be respectful of other campers’ desires for quiet and minimal disruption.
- Avoid driving an ATV in wet conditions, wetlands, streams and shorelines.

5. Where to Ride

Oregon has a wide variety of places to ride, including sand, desert and forest areas.

Riding areas are managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Oregon