

# RIDE RESPONSIBLY

## The T.R.E.A.D. Principles

Riding responsibly is the best way to protect your ATV access in Oregon. Following the Tread Lightly! T.R.E.A.D. Principles is recommended.



- ✓ **Travel Responsibly** on land by staying on designated roads, trails and areas. Go over, not around, obstacles to avoid widening the trails. Cross streams only at designated fords. When possible, avoid wet, muddy trails.
- ✓ **Respect the Rights of Others** including private property owners, all recreational trail users, campers and others so they can enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed. Leave gates as you found them. Yield right-of-way to those passing you or going uphill.
- ✓ **Educate Yourself** prior to your trip by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies. Plan for your trip, take recreation skills classes and know how to operate your equipment safely.
- ✓ **Avoid Sensitive Areas** such as meadows, lake shores, wetlands and streams. Always ride with caution any time water is present. Wet soils are more susceptible to damage. Riding along river and stream beds causes erosion and habitat destruction. Stay on designated routes to protect wildlife habitats and sensitive soils.
- ✓ **Do Your Part** modeling appropriate behavior, leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire, avoiding the spread of invasive species and repairing degraded areas.

## Your OregonATV Funds at Work



Operations & Maintenance



Education & Outreach



Law Enforcement & Emergency Medical Service

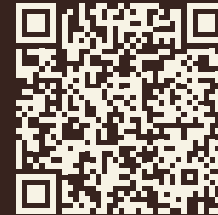
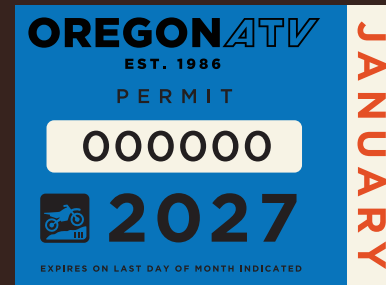


Development, Land Acquisition, and Planning

# BUY YOUR ATV PERMIT ONLINE!

Valid for two years, this permit must be displayed on any vehicle operated on public land which has been specifically designated for ATV use.

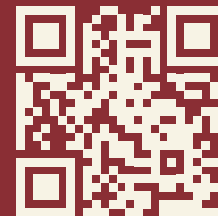
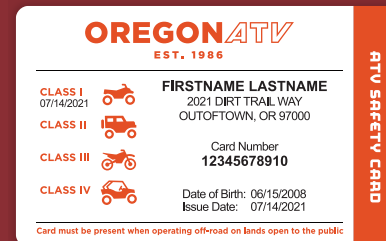
[OregonATV.gov](http://OregonATV.gov)



# GET YOUR FREE ATV SAFETY CARD!

An ATV Safety Education Card, required for all Class I (quad) and Class III (motorcycle) riders.

[RideATVoregon.org](http://RideATVoregon.org)



# OREGONATV

Oregon's Off-Roading Resource / EST. 1986



[OregonATV.gov](http://OregonATV.gov) | [RideATVoregon.org](http://RideATVoregon.org)

1-877-7SAFELY

# KEEP SOUND DOWN



## Oregon's New Statewide OHV Sound Limit



# OREGONATV

Oregon's Off-Roading Resource / EST. 1986



# 96 dBA

## ONE NUMBER, STATEWIDE.

Oregon now has a statewide sound limit of 96 dBA for Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use.\* Consistent sound rules and enforcement mean fewer environmental conflicts with neighbors and land managers which help to keep riding areas open. Excessive sound coming from riding areas can jeopardize our sport. The maximum allowable sound limit of 96 dBA is consistent with 10 other states including nearby California, Idaho and Nevada.



### KEEP IT RIDE-READY

A well-maintained exhaust system is your best defense against a failed sound check. Keep your muffler free of leaks, make sure your spark arrestor is installed and in good working order, and don't modify your exhaust with cutouts, bypass valves, or defeat devices — including exhaust modes on newer machines that may not be legal.

### SOUND RULES APPLY TO ALL RIDERS

**Most vehicles are manufactured to meet 96 dBA. Know when your muffler needs attention:**

- **Closed course competition exception** — there are numerous dirt bikes designed for competition use (race tracks) that do not meet the 96 dBA level or are not equipped with spark arresting mufflers. When riding these vehicles on open public lands, you will need to install a quieter spark arresting muffler that meets 96 dBA.
- **Packing needs replaced** — over time, muffler packing breaks down and loses effectiveness.
- **Non-stock muffler** — if the vehicle has an aftermarket muffler, it needs to be tested to ensure it is compliant.
- **Baffles removed** — tampering with the muffler or spark arrestor will likely make the machine too loud.

### OAR 736-004-0160 (The Official Rules)

#### 1 All-terrain Vehicles:

- No person shall operate any all-terrain vehicle which exceeds the stationary noise level limits specified:
  - A maximum noise level of 96 dBA when subjected to a stationary test as prescribed by SAE J-1287 (2017) for Class I and III ATVs.
  - A maximum noise level of 96 dBA when subjected to a stationary test as prescribed by and J-1492 (2023) for Class II and IV ATVs.
- No person shall operate an all-terrain vehicle with any of the following defects:
  - No muffler;
  - Leaks in the exhaust system;
  - Pinched outlet pipe;
  - Muffler cutouts, bypass valves, defeat devices or exhaust modes are prohibited to be activated unless they are compliant with applicable noise and emission control regulations.
- A person commits the offense of causing unreasonable noise with a vehicle if the person operates an all-terrain vehicle so as to cause any greater noise or sound than is reasonably necessary for the proper operation of the vehicle.

### DO YOUR PART:

- 1 Keep it reasonable in staging areas, campgrounds and especially near residential areas.**
- 2 Know your machine and get it tested before you ride.**
- 3 If you see a rider who might not know the rules, say something— rider-to-rider communication goes a long way.**

### SOUND TESTING

Law enforcement agencies and land managers across the state have sound meters and can test your machine upon request. Sound is measured at 20 inches from the tip of the muffler, generally at ½ RPM of vehicle redline. For a list of agencies that can provide free testing, scan the QR code or visit: <https://oregon.gov/oprd/ATV/Pages/ATV-Sound.aspx>

#### How Testing is Done

The test method depends on your vehicle class:

**Classes I (quads) & III (motorcycles)** are tested using the SAE J-1287 standard — the engine is revved to approximately half of redline RPM.

**Classes II (4x4s, sand rails) & IV (side-by-sides)** are tested using the SAE J-1492 method — throttle is quickly applied and released. Vehicles with tuned exhaust systems can fail due to backfire sound alone.

*\*Note: The Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area (ODNRA) enforces a lower limit of 93 dBA.*



Scan for sound regulations and testing sites

*Hand-held sound meters are compact, accurate, and easy-to-use.*

### Citations

In most cases a Class C traffic violation would be issued. Max fine is \$500.