



November 2009

New OHV Laws & Common Sense Responsible Riding

As cooler weather draws more off-highway vehicle (OHV) enthusiasts onto trails, new laws and continued mindfulness need to be considered to avoid illegal activity, protect natural resources, and respect neighboring residents or area users.

In order to operate an OHV in Arizona, OHV owners must now purchase an annual OHV decal (\$25) for any vehicle designed by the manufacturer for off-highway use that weighs 1,800 pounds or less. All OHVs must also have an Arizona Certificate of Title and license plate prior to purchasing the OHV Decal. This Decal is not the same as *registration*. Registration refers to the process that is required if you would like to make your OHV “street legal,” to be able to ride it on improved and maintained roads and streets.

Titles and Decals can be purchased at www.servicearizona.com or by visiting AZ Motor Vehicle Division offices. Revenues generated from the OHV Decal will help towards better management of Arizona’s rapidly growing OHV use, protect natural resources, and ensure sustainable OHV opportunities.

Riders need to plan their route to stay in designated areas only, and not in any publicly-owned wash, waterway, or open area. Travel is limited to roads, trails, and areas open by the land management agency for motorized vehicle use. Travel that causes damage to cultural or natural resources or property, is prohibited. Airborne dust must be kept to a minimum, and shall not cross property boundaries.

Tips for the Trail:

- Ride slowly on dirt roads, especially where the soil is fine and becomes airborne easily;
- Avoid residential and wilderness areas;
- Respect “No Trespassing” signs and fenced off areas;
- Stay on existing dedicated roads and trails;
- Respect seasonal closures;
- Cross streams only at designated spots;
- View livestock and wildlife from a distance;
- Avoid the revving of your engine for no reason;
- Do not pursue wildlife or hunt from an OHV;
- Be courteous when passing hikers, campers, or horseback riders;
- Leave the land in the same condition, or better than you found it.

For more information on safe and responsible OHV use, contact the AZ Game and Fish Department at www.azgfd.gov/ohv. For more information on the OHV Decal, titling or registration, visit the Motor Vehicle Division website at www.azdot.gov/mvd. For more information on airborne dust, its health effects, and tips to reduce this pollutant, contact karen.wilhelmsen@deq.pima.gov.