

OHV Laws, Rules & Requirements

The following information highlights Idaho's off-highway vehicle (OHV) laws and rules. It answers frequently asked questions about OHV activities on public lands, roads, and trails, and provides important contact information. Riders are cautioned that additional laws and rules may apply to the operation of off-highway vehicles. For more information contact:

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
(IDPR), Motorized Trails Office

Boise -- South Idaho
5657 Warm Springs Avenue
Boise, ID 83716
(208) 334-4199

Idaho Falls – East Idaho
4279 Commerce Circle, Ste. B
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
(208) 525-7121

Coeur d'Alene – North Idaho
2885 Kathleen Ave. Ste. 1
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
(208) 769-1511



Where can I ride my OHV?

trails.idaho.gov

Trails

These are the requirements for motorbikes, ATVs, UTVs and Specialty Off-highway vehicles operating off-highway on a designated trail, open riding area or motocross track.

- A valid IDPR OHV registration sticker. (IC 67-7122)
- A helmet under age eighteen. (IC 49-666)
- A muffler and Forest Service approved spark arrestor. Your muffler has to pass 96 db at the half-meter test, SAE J1287. (IC 67-7125)



State & Federal ROADS

This includes Idaho Department of Lands, Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Forest Service, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and privately owned roads open to OHV use. Contact the land owner or manager for information on roads open to OHV use. The OHV cannot exceed 96dB.

- Valid driver's license (except under the age of 16 when supervised by a licensed adult operator). (IC49-301 or IC 49-302)
- Liability insurance or alternative insurance. (IC 49-1223 or IC 49-1232)
- Valid IDPR OHV registration sticker. (IC 67-7122)
- A helmet under age 18. (IC 49-666)
- Muffler and U.S. Forest Service approved spark arrestor. Your muffler must pass 96dB at the half-meter test, SAE J1287. (IC 67-7125) The OHV cannot exceed 96dB.

City & County ROADS

The following requirements must be met on city, county, and highway district roads. Certain roads may be closed by local jurisdiction. Check with local jurisdiction for information on roads open to OHV use.

- Valid restricted vehicle license plate. [IC 49-402(4)]
- Valid IDPR OHV registration sticker affixed to restricted vehicle license plate. (IC 67-7122)
- Valid driver's license. (IC 49-301)
- Liability insurance or alternative insurance. (IC 49-1223 or IC 49-1232)
- A helmet under age 18. (IC 49-666)
- Muffler and U.S. Forest Service approved spark arrestor. Your muffler has to pass 96 dB at the half-meter test, SAE J1287. The OHV cannot exceed 96dB. (IC 67-7125)

For safe operation on roads the following equipment is recommended.

- Brake light.
- Headlight and taillight after dark/poor visibility.
- Horn audible at 200 feet.
- Mirror showing roadway 200 feet behind the OHV.



DEFINITIONS

Idaho Code 67-7101

- All-terrain vehicle (ATV) means any recreation vehicle with three (3) or more tires, under nine hundred (900) pounds and fifty (50) inches or less in width, having a wheelbase

- of sixty-one (61) inches or less, has handlebar steering and a seat designed to be straddled by the operator.
- Department means the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR).
- Motorbike means any self-propelled two 2-wheeled motorcycle or motor-driven cycle, excluding tractors, designed for or capable of traveling off developed roadways and highways and also referred to as trailbikes, enduro bikes, trials bikes, motocross bikes or dual purpose motorcycles.
- Specialty off highway vehicle means any vehicle manufactured, designed or constructed exclusively for off-highway operation that does not fit the definition of an all-terrain vehicle, utility type vehicle or motorbike as defined in this section.
- Utility type vehicle (UTV) means any recreational motor vehicle other than an ATV, motorbike or snowmobile as defined in this section, designed for and capable of travel over designated unpaved roads, traveling on four (4) or more tires, maximum width less than seventy-four (74) inches, maximum weight less than two thousand (2,000) pounds, and having a wheelbase of ninety-four (94) inches or less. Utility type vehicle (UTV), does not include golf carts, vehicles specially designed to carry a disabled person, implements of husbandry as defined in section 49-110(2), Idaho Code, or vehicles otherwise registered under title 49, Idaho Code.



OHV Weights & Measures



Motorbike

Wheels/Tires: 2



ATV (all terrain vehicle)

Wheels/Tires: 3 or more

Steering: Handlebars

Seat Type: Straddle

Width: 50" maximum

Wheelbase: 61" maximum

Weight: 900 pounds maximum



UTV (utility type vehicle)

Wheels/Tires: 4

Steering: Steering Wheel

Width: 50" minimum, 74" maximum

Wheelbase: 110" maximum

Weight: 2,000 pounds maximum



SOHV (specialty off-highway vehicle)

Any vehicle designed or constructed exclusively for off highway operation that does not fit the definition of an ATV, UTV or Motorbike. SOHVs include a buggy, modified golf cart, modified rock crawler, jeep or sand rail.

License & Registration

Any OHVs being operated or transported on public lands, roads or trails of the state of Idaho must display a current IDPR OHV Registration Sticker.

Idaho Code 67-7124

NON-RESIDENT REQUIREMENTS

Non-residents are required to have either a valid OHV registration from their home state of residence or a valid IDPR OHV registration sticker. Non-residents must purchase an Idaho restricted vehicle license plate with a valid IDPR OHV registration sticker if they don't have a plate and wish to operate on Idaho's local jurisdiction roads (i.e. county roads).

Idaho Code 67-7122

REGISTRATION EXPIRATION

All IDPR OHV registration stickers which are issued are valid through December 31 of the issued year.

Idaho Code 67-7122

REGISTRATION PLACEMENT

The IDPR OHV Registration sticker must be visible and kept legible at all times. Placement for specific OHVs is noted on following page.

- Motorbike – Riders right fork.



- ATV, UTV, SOHV – Rear fender.



- Restricted vehicle license plate
– Lower right corner



Idaho Code 49-114(10)

MOTORBIKES CONVERTED FOR ON HIGHWAY USE

For motorbikes that have been converted to motorcycles (meet all equipment requirements to display the red, white and blue motor vehicle license plate) and are operated off-highway, the IDPR OHV Registration sticker must be displayed on the rider's right fork.

Idaho Code 49-304

MOTORCYCLE ENDORSEMENT

Operators of OHVs displaying a restricted vehicle license plate are not required to have a motorcycle "M" endorsement on their driver's license. The motorcycle "M" endorsement applies only to motorcycles displaying a red, white and blue motor vehicle license plate.



FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS

Any vehicle that does not meet federal motor vehicle safety standards shall not be permitted to operate on state highways, interstates, or controlled access roadways.

Idaho Code 49-501

TITLING

If you acquired your motorbike or ATV after 1991, or your UTV after July 1, 2006 you are required to title it in your name. Proof of ownership (a title) is required to obtain a restricted vehicle license plate.

Idaho Code 49-426

AGRICULTURAL/SNOW REMOVAL USE EXEMPTION

OHVs used exclusively on farms and ranches, or for other agricultural or snowplowing purposes,

do not require an OHV registration sticker or restricted vehicle license plate. For any uses other than agricultural or snow-plowing the OHV must be registered for that purpose.

Idaho Code 67-7112

ATV OPERATION ON GROOMED SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

If allowed by the county and land manager, any ATV operating on a groomed snowmobile trail must purchase and display a snowmobile registration sticker. Check with the local county sheriff and land manager for information on groomed snowmobile trails open to ATV use.

Idaho Code 67-7125

OHV Sound Requirements

OHVs operating in Idaho must be equipped with a USFS approved muffler and spark arrestor. The OHV cannot exceed 96dB when tested in accordance with the SAE J1287 sound testing procedure.

