



OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) SAFETY FACT SHEET

Always wear your safety gear, including a helmet, goggles or face shield, long-sleeved shirt, long pants, gloves, and over-the-ankle boots. Make sure your helmet is approved for motorized vehicle use.

Ride a machine that is the right size for you. Riding a machine that is too big or too small is a major cause of accidents and injuries. Riders should be able to straddle the machine with a slight bend in the knees while both feet are on the footrests. Riders must be able to reach the controls while turning.

Always ride in control. Never attempt anything beyond your skill level or machine capability.

Only carry passengers if an OHV is specifically designed for it. Off-road motorcycles and most ATVs are designed to be ridden by one rider only.

Operators between the ages of 8 and 15 (before they obtain a driver's license) are required by law to take an OHV Safety Education class approved by Utah State Parks and Recreation, and obtain their Utah OHV Safety Education Certificate. For more information, visit stateparks.utah.gov/ohv.

Always leave an itinerary and map with family or friends.

Be prepared for any emergency. Always carry a tool kit and spare parts, a first-aid kit and survival equipment. Carry plenty of extra food, water and fuel.

Riders under the age of 16 should be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.

Never drink and ride. Alcohol and OHVs don't mix, but create a deadly and illegal combination. Make sure you know how prescription drugs affect you before you operate an OHV.

Always make sure your machine is in good working condition before taking it out on the trail.

Be sure to have a red or orange whip flag attached to your OHV, placed to wave at least eight feet off the ground while riding on sand dunes.

Check the weather forecast before leaving home and be prepared for changing weather conditions.



OHV ETHICS AND RIDING COURTESY

Protect your riding privilege — stay on the trail. Riding on public lands is a privilege, not a right. As a privilege, it can be taken away if riders don't do everything they can to protect it. The best way to protect riding privileges is to **STAY ON THE TRAILS**. Trails have been developed to provide riders with great riding adventures and can be closed because of the careless acts of irresponsible riders.

Avoid riding in wet meadows or on stream banks, and avoid riding on steep and erodible slopes.

Avoid riding over small trees and shrubs. Trampled vegetation not only looks bad, but also damages critical wildlife habitat and contributes to soil erosion.

Ride in the middle of the trail to avoid widening it. Trail widening is unsightly and expensive to repair.

Always yield the right of way to non-motorized trail users. When encountering other hikers or horses on the trail, pull over and shut off your engine. Remove your helmet and let others pass.

Don't alter the manufacturer's muffler system. Loud exhaust systems are annoying to other users.

Honor seasonal and permanent trail closures.

Never harass wildlife or domestic animals while riding. Always view wildlife from a respectful distance.

Never litter. Always carry bags to pack out your trash and other trash you may encounter. Leave the trails better than you find them.

When overtaking others, follow at a safe distance until they provide a signal for you to pass. Be courteous while passing. A little bump of the throttle can leave a shower of gravel or a cloud of dust and an angry rider behind.

After each ride, wash machines to avoid spreading noxious weeds to new areas.

Make sure the area you are riding in is open to ATV and OHV use. All areas in Utah are considered closed to OHV use unless designated open either by signs or on maps.

Respect private property and do not enter without the owner's permission.

Remember that you, as one rider, represent the whole OHV community to others. Be a good example of courteous and ethical OHV riding.



What are Trust Lands?

When Utah was granted statehood on January 4, 1896, the federal government gave the new state parcels of land to be managed "in trust" in order to provide financial support for public education and 11 other public institutions. The institutions that benefit from these lands are called beneficiaries. The lands are called "trust lands" and are scattered throughout the state.

There are currently about 3.4 million acres, or 5,500 square miles of trust lands remaining. More than half of the original 7.5 million acre land grant has been sold, much of it within the first 35 years of statehood. Interestingly, about 30% of all private lands in Utah were once trust lands.

What is the Trust Lands Administration?

The School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) is an independent agency of state government. It was created in 1994 by the state legislature to manage the trust lands. The agency is entirely self-funded and uses no tax dollars in its operations. Prudent and profitable trust lands management has put needed dollars to work in Utah's schools.

How Do Trust Lands Make Money?

Money from the management of trust lands comes from a variety of different sources. The largest source of revenues is from the leasing of minerals properties and royalties from the production of commodities such as oil, gas, coal, sand and gravel. Trust Lands are also leased for a variety of other purposes including easements, telecommunications sites, industrial sites, commercial sites, timber harvesting and agricultural activities.

There are times when the best way to make money for the beneficiaries is through the sale of trust lands or through real estate development activities. Public auctions are generally held twice a year where select parcels of trust lands are sold to the public.

How Do Trust Lands Help My School?

The money that is made from trust lands is transferred to the state's permanent school fund. The permanent fund's current balance is over \$1.1 billion and growing. Investment income from the permanent fund is distributed to each school in the state every year for local academic needs. Each school's community council has the responsibility of determining how their share of the money can be used to best meet their school's needs. Total distributions to schools last year were about \$23 million.

How Can I Help?

In order for trust lands to continue providing increasing amounts of funding for schools, it is important that they be treated properly and protected from abuse. You can help by being responsible in your use of trust lands. If you hunt, fish, camp, hike, ride your OHV, or participate in other recreational activities on trust lands please be sure to be a responsible steward of these lands. Remember, if you pack it in, pack it out. Always stay on the trail and remind others to do the same. By doing so, you are protecting your privilege to use these lands and also helping your school.

Want More Information?

Please visit our website at www.trustlands.utah.gov or give us a call at 801-535-5100.