

By practicing the Tread Lightly! principles you not only protect the outdoors but you protect access to recreation opportunities for years to come.

Tread Lightly!® is a national nonprofit organization with a mission to proactively protect recreation access and opportunities in the outdoors through ethics education and stewardship initiatives. Not only is Tread Lightly! the nation's signature ethics message for outdoor enthusiasts that use motorized vehicles while enjoying the outdoors, Tread Lightly! offers unique training and restoration programs strategically designed to instill an ethic of responsibility in a wide variety of outdoor enthusiasts and the industries that serve them.

- T** TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY
- R** RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS
- E** EDUCATE YOURSELF
- A** AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS
- D** DO YOUR PART



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Download *The Tread Lightly! Guide to Responsible ATV Riding* for more useful information for riding in the great outdoors at [www.treadlightly.org](http://www.treadlightly.org).

Thanks to our partners!



# ATV RIDING



**TREAD LIGHTLY!'S**  
RESPONSIBLE RECREATION TIPS

## TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY

Travel responsibly on designated roads and trails or in permitted areas.

- ✔ Travel only in areas open to all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use.
- ✔ On slick trails, moderate the throttle and use the clutch to gain maximum traction with minimum tailspin.
- ✔ On switchbacks, avoid roosting around the apex of the turn when climbing or brake-sliding during descent, both of which gouge the trail.
- ✔ Drive over, not around obstacles to avoid widening the trail.
- ✔ Cross streams only at designated fording points or where the trail crosses the stream.
- ✔ Comply with all signs and barriers.
- ✔ Buddy up with two or three riders. Riding solo can leave you vulnerable if you have an accident or breakdown. Designate meeting areas in case of separation.
- ✔ When winching always inspect your equipment, use the right winch for the situation, find a good secure anchor, and never winch with less than five wraps of wire rope around the drum.
- ✔ When using a tree as an anchor, use a wide tree strap to avoid damage to the trunk of the tree.

## RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

Respect the rights of others including private property owners and all recreational trail users, campers and others to allow them to enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.

- ✔ Be considerate of others on the road or trail.
- ✔ Leave gates as you find them.
- ✔ If crossing private property, be sure to ask permission from the landowner(s).
- ✔ Yield the right of way to those passing you or traveling uphill. Yield to mountain bikers, hikers, and horses.

- ✔ Do not idly ride around in camping, picnicking, trailhead and residential areas.
- ✔ Keep speeds low around crowds and in camping areas.
- ✔ Keep the noise and dust down.

## EDUCATE YOURSELF

Educate yourself by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies, planning for your trip, taking recreation skills classes, and knowing how to use and operate your equipment safely.

- ✔ Obtain a map of your destination and determine which areas are open to ATVs.
- ✔ Make a realistic plan, and stick to it. Always tell someone of your travel plans.
- ✔ Contact the land manager for area restrictions, closures, and permit requirements.
- ✔ Check the weather forecast before you go.
- ✔ Prepare for the unexpected by packing a small backpack full of emergency items.
- ✔ Wear a helmet, eye protection, and other safety gear.
- ✔ Know your limitations. Watch your time, your fuel, and your energy.
- ✔ Take a class or the *ATV RiderCourse*<sup>SM</sup> that provides a fast-paced, half-day, hands-on training session. Call the ATV Enrollment Express toll-free at 1-800-887-2887 to enroll.
- ✔ Make sure your ATV is mechanically up to task. Be prepared with tools, supplies, spares, and a spill kit for trailside repairs.

## AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS

Avoid sensitive areas such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands and streams, unless on designated routes.

- ✔ Other sensitive habitats to avoid unless on designated routes include cryptobiotic soils of the desert, tundra, and seasonal nesting or breeding areas.
- ✔ Avoid disturbing historical, archeological, and paleontological sites.
- ✔ Avoid “spooking” livestock and wildlife you encounter and keep your distance.
- ✔ Motorized and mechanized vehicles are not allowed in areas designated Wilderness.

## DO YOUR PART

Do your part by leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire, avoiding the spread of invasive species, restoring degraded areas, and joining a local enthusiast organization.

- ✔ Carry a trash bag on your vehicle and pick up litter left by others.
- ✔ Pack out what you pack in.
- ✔ Practice minimum impact camping by using established sites, camping 200 feet from water resources and trails.
- ✔ Observe proper sanitary waste disposal or pack your waste out.
- ✔ Spark arrestors are required on all OHVs traveling on public lands.
- ✔ Protect the soundscape by preventing unnecessary noise created by a poorly tuned vehicle or revving your engine without need. Use proper silencers on exhausts, which meet regulatory decibel levels.
- ✔ Following a ride, wash your ATV and support vehicle to reduce the spread of invasive species.
- ✔ Don't mix riding with alcohol or drugs.

