

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**USDA Forest Service  
Ashley National Forest  
355 North Vernal Avenue  
Vernal, Utah 84078  
(435) 789-1181**



**For:** Immediate Release  
**Date:** August 29, 2005  
**Subject:** Ethical ATV Use

**Contact:** Lisa Ross  
**Phone:** (435) 781-5103  
**Email:** lisaross@fs.fed.us

### **MINIMIZE RESOURCE DAMAGE DURING AUTUMN SEASON**

The Ashley National Forest, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the Bureau of Land Management are asking everyone who recreates during the current and upcoming hunting seasons to be aware of the risk of resource damage caused by the use of ATV's (All Terrain Vehicles). All visitors must stay on designated ATV trails and areas. On Forest Service Land motorized and/or street legal vehicles that are allowed on designated routes may travel within a 300 foot buffer, but only when needed to access a temporary campsite or gather firewood by permit. However, any travel that results in resource damage is illegal; with fines up to \$5,000. In addition to the fines, the person responsible for the damage can also be held liable for the cost of repairs to the resources.

A person must be at least 8 years of age to operate an ATV, and anyone under sixteen must have a safety certificate. To obtain a safety certificate you must attend a safety course offered by Utah State Parks. All persons under the age of eighteen are required to wear a helmet when riding on an ATV, and all ATV's must have a current registration. Shooting from any vehicle, including ATV's is prohibited.

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Responsible use of off-highway vehicles is the key to the future of motorized recreation on Public land. If you realize you are causing damage, get back on the road or trail to minimize the impact. Visitors should do their part and leave the land in the same or better condition than they found it.

- Leave gates the way you find them, either open or closed.
- Vehicles must travel on existing roads and trails.
- Obey posted signs, respect closed areas.
- Be aware of the damage you can cause by driving off designated trails.

If you witness an ATV violation you can contact Central Dispatch at 435-789-4222 or for a game violation call 800-662-3337. If you would like more information, please contact the Ashley National Forest at 435- 789-1181 or stop by 355 North Vernal Avenue.

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