



OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) INFORMATION APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FORESTS



There are three types of roads on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests; horizontally and vertically numbered roads, and closed roads.

**HORIZONTALLY
NUMBERED ROADS**

249

**VERTICALLY
NUMBERED ROADS**

**8
3
1
2**

It is prohibited to operate a motor vehicle on or in any road, trail, or area that is barricaded, gated or signed as closed to motor vehicles by Forest Order No. 01-405, 36 CFR 261.54 (e) and 55 (a). Under Forest Order No. 01-14-561, it is prohibited to operate a motor vehicle on a National Forest System Road (NFSR) in a manner which violates State law, 36 CFR 261.54 (d). This includes all motor vehicles as well as OHVs as defined by State law, ARS 28-101.3 (A) (B), ARS 28-101.35, ARS 28-101.38 and 28-1171.6 (A) (B).

HORIZONTALLY NUMBERED ROADS

249

On all state, county, and National Forest System Roads (NFSR) marked by a horizontally-numbered route marker, the motorized vehicle and its driver must be “street legal.” State highways and county roads that are within the boundaries of the National Forests require that the vehicle and its operator meet all State licensing, registration and equipment requirements. Registration is necessary if you want to operate your OHV on horizontally numbered NFS roads.

- ✓ All motor vehicles, including OHVs must be registered with a valid registration plate properly displayed. The older plates may be identified by the letters “MC” displayed on it.
- ✓ Having an unladen weight of 2,500 pounds or less requires the annual purchase of an OHV Decal to operate on public and state lands.
- ✓ All motor vehicles, including OHVs, must meet State operating equipment requirements. See Arizona Revised Statutes Title 28 (ARS).
- ✓ All motor vehicles, including OHVs, can only be operated by a licensed operator. Three-wheeled OHVs require a Class M, motorcycle endorsement on State motor vehicle operator’s license whereas a four-wheel OHV requires a Class D license. Operators and passengers of OHVs that are under the age of 18 are required to wear an approved protective helmet (DOT) ARS 28-1179 (B).
- ✓ All motorcycles and OHVs require the operator to wear eye protection or have an approved windshield, ARS 28-964 (A).
- ✓ Seat and footrests for the operator and passenger are required if vehicle is designed to carry a passenger ARS 28-964B, ARS 28-892.
- ✓ Each internal combustion engine shall be equipped with a USDA approved muffler/spark arrestor 36 CFR 261.52 (j) and ARS 28-1179A.4.

To be “street legal” vehicles must have the following:

- ✓ License plate light (ARS 28-925C).
- ✓ Need to have a Valid Driver’s License to operate on horizontal numbered roads.
- ✓ Horn audible from the distance of at least 200 feet (ARS 28-954A).
- ✓ Proper insurance (ARS 28-4142A, ARS 28-4135).
- ✓ Certain areas may also require you to have your OHV emissions tested (ARS 49-542C&D).

**VERTICALLY
NUMBERED
ROADS**

8
3
1
2

OHVs do not require registration if operated on vertically numbered roads on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, **but they do need to meet Title and equipment requirements that apply as defined by the State.**

- ✓ Must have and properly display a registration license plate. The older plates may be identified by the letters “RV” displayed on it (ARS 28-2512D.1&2).
- ✓ Having an unladen weight of 2,500 pounds or less requires the annual purchase of an OHV Decal to operate on public and state lands.
- ✓ Each internal combustion engine shall be equipped with a USDA approved muffler/spark arrestor 36 CFR 261.52 (j) and ARS 28-1179A.4.
- ✓ The driver does not need to be licensed.
- ✓ Those under 18 who operate or ride an ATV, UTV or ROV must wear a helmet approved (DOT) ARS 28-964.A and 28-1179.B.
- ✓ Seat and footrests for the operator and passenger are required if vehicle is designed to carry a passenger ARS 28-964B, ARS 28-892.

Vehicles can be driven off roads/cross country, unless prohibited by a forest order. Operators can be cited under 36 CFR 261.56. Vehicles can be driven off road providing the motor vehicle is not operated in a manner which damages or unreasonably disturbs the land, wildlife or vegetative resources, 36 CFR 261.15 (h). If a vehicle is operated in a manner that may cause a wildland fire, the operator may be cited under 36 CFR 261.5 (c). Operators may also be held liable for suppression costs.

For additional information please refer to:

Arizona Off-Highway Vehicle Guide “OHV Laws and Places to Ride”
The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests’ Website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/asnf>
Arizona Game and Fish Website: <http://azgfd.gov>

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests’ District Offices:

Alpine: (928) 339-5000 Black Mesa: (928) 535-7300
Clifton: (928) 687-8600 Lakeside: (928) 368-2100
Springerville: (928) 333-6200

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