

State of Montana

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Licensing Requirements for Road and Trail Use On the Bitterroot National Forest



Montana State Law requires the following for OHV use on all National Forest **ROADS**:

- The OHV must be registered as a motor vehicle at the County Treasurers office (a vehicle title is required, a **license plate** will be issued).
- The operator of the vehicle must possess a **valid driver's license** (no motorcycle endorsement needed for ATV's)
- Operators of these vehicles must be in compliance with and follow all applicable laws.
- The vehicle must be street legal (**mirror, horn, headlight, and brake lights**).
- A **safety helmet** that meets the Dept of Transportation requirements is required for anyone under 18 years of age, either a driver or passenger, and is always a good idea for all OHV riders.

OHV Online Safety Education Course: Montana Off Highway Vehicle Safety Courses are now available online for children **ages 12-16** who wish to ride on a road. You may work at your own pace, and save and restart the course at anytime. At the completion of each chapter, you will take a quiz. At the end of the online course, you will take a final exam. When you pass the off highway vehicle safety certification exam, you will be able to print a temporary off highway vehicle safety certificate, and your permanent card will be mailed to you within a few weeks. You must be accompanied by another licensed operator and have your certificate with you at all times while operating your ATV. There is a modest cost for the course, but the certificate has no expiration date, so this is a one-time fee. For more information online go to <http://www.atvcourse.com/usa/montana/>

If you are only riding on designated legal trails, you must have a Montana OHV registration decal (perm sticker). A vehicle title is required to acquire the OHV registration decal.

An example of a designated legal trail on the Bitterroot National Forest would be Overwhich Falls; A legal trail is open to motorized vehicles 50 inches or less in width. **No cross country travel is permitted.**

Nonresidents: Nonresidents using their OHVs in Montana must purchase a **Nonresident Annual Use Permit**, which is valid for the calendar year (January 1 – December 31). Residents of Idaho and North Dakota are exempt. The Nonresident Annual Use Permit allows OHV use on trails only. OHVs must be street legal to be ridden on roads. Permits available through the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Online Licensing Service, or at any FWP office.

If you have any questions regarding OHV use on National Forest roads and trails please contact your local Forest office. For questions regarding licensing of the OHV please contact your local County Treasurers office.