

Welcome!

Tonto National Forest OHV Permit Zones

Rules & Regulations

Go to www.Recreation.gov or download the Recreation.gov app to purchase your Tonto National Forest OHV Permit for motor vehicle use in these OHV Permit Zones:

Cave Creek Ranger District
St. Clair
Desert Vista

Mesa Ranger District
Bulldog Canyon
The Rolls

1 MOTOR VEHICLE USE RULES

- A. Every motorized vehicle in an OHV Permit Zone (i.e. ATVs, UTVs/SxSs, dirtbikes, Jeeps, SUVs, full-size vehicles, etc.) must have at least one rider in possession of a Tonto NF OHV Permit, issued in their name as listed on their Driver's License. For youth under 16 years of age operating an OHV in the OHV Permit Zones, they do not need their own permit but must be accompanied by a guardian with a Tonto NF OHV Permit. Visit www.recreation.gov and search "Tonto National Forest OHV Permit" or see the FAQ sheet for more details and specific requirements related to the Tonto NF OHV Permit.
- B. Motorized vehicles must stay on designated trails. All cross-country travel by a motorized vehicle, including OHVs, is prohibited.
- C. Travel by motorized vehicles which causes damage to native plants, wildlife habitat, riparian areas, cultural or natural resources or property or improvements is prohibited.
- D. Don't drink and drive! It is unlawful to operate an OHV under the influence of drugs or alcohol or in such a manner that endangers the safety of others.
- E. All OHVs and riders must meet Arizona State requirements including:
 - a. Helmet: A properly fitted and fastened DOT approved helmet is required for those under 18 who operate or ride an OHV. Helmets are strongly recommended for all OHV operators and riders over 18.
 - b. A United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved spark arrestor
 - c. A muffler which prevents sound above 96 decibels
 - d. Brakes adequate to stop the vehicle



- e. Lighted headlights and taillights, if the OHV is operated between one half-hour after sunset and one half-hour before sunrise
- f. License plate securely fastened to the rear of the vehicle and clearly visible
- g. Seat and footrests for the operator and each passenger
- h. Rearview mirror

F. State, county, and forest roads are marked differently by a horizontally-numbered or vertically-numbered route marker:

- a. Vertical Signs: Forest roads with vertically-numbered route markers mean you can ride with an RV or MC plate and OHV Decal. On these roads, the driver does not need to have a driver's license (i.e. those under 16 years old can operate a motorized vehicle on these roads; please follow the vehicle's recommendation for age of operation).
- b. Horizontal Signs: Forest roads with horizontally-numbered route markers mean you have to be "street legal" (normal full-size car license plate or MC plate and OHV Decal) and have a valid driver's license.

2 SAFETY

- A. Plan ahead! Riders should wear appropriate safety gear, carry a first aid kit, plenty of water, ride with a partner, and ride with caution.
- B. Most trails are two-way and provide a primitive trail experience. Blind turns, down trees, flooded washes, other OHV riders, and non-motorized recreation users (e.g., hikers) should be anticipated.
 - a. The Telegraph Line Trail (MT-42) in the St. Clair OHV Permit Zone is a one-way trail, traveling East to West. For your safety and the safety of others, only travel this route as directed. The trail is too narrow and does not provide pull-outs for multi-direction travel.

3 CAMPING AND OTHER NON-MOTORIZED ACTIVITIES

- A. There are many non-motorized trails within the OHV Permit Zones; motorized use on these routes is prohibited. Please be respectful and use the routes marked for your use.
- B. Hunting during regular hunting seasons with a valid hunting license is allowed in all Tonto OHV Permit Zones subject to Arizona State Game and Fish Department hunting regulations. A valid OHV Permit is required to access the permit zones with a motorized vehicle.
- C. Some areas have recreational target shooting restrictions in place to prevent user conflicts and/or protect the watershed, and the entire Tonto National Forest has a target type



restriction in place. Please contact your local District Office or visit the Tonto NF website for more information.

- D. Each Tonto OHV Permit Zone may have different restrictions on camping, so be sure to check with your local District Office before you go. Generally, camping is prohibited at all staging areas and access points to allow for day-use parking and trailer staging.
 - a. In the Bulldog Canyon OHV Permit Zone, camping is prohibited for the first mile from each access gate, with the exception of Blue Point access gate; camping is prohibited for the first two miles from this gate. This restriction includes a distance of 300 feet on either side of the road/trail.
 - b. In the St. Clair OHV Permit Zone, Devil's Hole is a day-use site only. Because water levels can fluctuate at a moment's notice, this is a day-use destination and should not be used for camping.
- E. Campfires are restricted during seasonal fire restrictions. Please contact the District Office or Tonto NF website for up-to-date information. Burning pallets is discouraged because it leaves behind hazardous nails on the ground.

4 GENERAL USE RULES

- A. As with all Federal lands, fireworks are not allowed anywhere in the permit zones.
- B. Please don't remove our signs or make your own. Removal or placement of regulatory signs is prohibited and volunteers work hard to repair damage to help keep trails signed and open for your use.
- C. Facilities- there are currently no developed campgrounds throughout the permit zones. Some staging areas and access points provide vault toilets or portajohns, but there is no running water or additional facilities. Dumpsters may be provided at select locations. Please Pack-it-in Pack-it-out and do your part to help keep these recreation areas clean!
- D. The Tonto NF OHV trails are open year-round subject to severe weather, other forest conditions, or special closures. Please check with your local District Office or Tonto NF website for any special closure notices (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r03/tonto/alerts>).

Enjoy your National Forest!