



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

Off-Highway Vehicle Ordinances Fact Sheet

New local ordinances and resolutions allowing certain Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use on specific paved roads

OHV use on paved roads was amended in the OHV Act by the New Mexico legislature during the 2016–2017 sessions. Local authorities and the New Mexico Transportation Commission now may pass resolutions or ordinances that designate certain paved roads in their respective communities as open to specific ATV or ROV travel.

- It remains illegal to operate an ATV or ROV on a paved road, UNLESS a local authority or the New Mexico Transportation Commission has passed an ordinance allowing such use on specific roads in specific communities.

www.B4Uride.com or www.wildlife.state.nm.us/ohv/ohv-laws-and-rules/

For your convenience, as information about local ordinances becomes available, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is posting a list of links on the URLs above.

If you intend to operate an ATV or ROV on a paved road, it is your responsibility to inquire with the local authority where you plan to ride and verify use is legal and allowed in that specific area.

State law requires ordinances that allow individuals to operate on paved roads to comply with the following:

- Only ATVs and ROVs (side-by-sides, SxS, UTVs, etc.) can be operated on specific paved roads within specific communities that have been authorized by passage of a local ordinance that defines such use.
- OHVs that will be used to operate on authorized paved roads must purchase and attach to the OHV the special use OHV license plate which can be purchased from the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division for a fee of \$7.
- Operation on legally authorized paved roads will require the following:
 - One or more headlights and taillights
 - Brakes
 - Mirrors
 - Mufflers
 - A valid driver's license or drivers/learners permit.
If younger than 18 years of age an OHV safety permit is required.
 - Liability insurance
 - Operator must wear eye protection that complies with the OHV Act (safety glasses or safety goggles)
 - If younger than 18 years of age a safety helmet that complies with the OHV Act (DOT approved).



Please refer to New Mexico's OHV laws and rules for complete requirements.

Local authorities can enact and enforce further restrictions, provided these are not in conflict with state law. It is the responsibility of every OHV operator to know the state and local laws and rules before riding.

For questions regarding OHV laws please call (505) 222-4727.