

FACT SHEET OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

For a copy of the complete Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Bylaw, visit

https://www.county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca/670/Protective-Services

The Alberta *Traffic Safety Act* allows municipalities to enact a bylaw to permit OHV operation on Municipal maintained roads and public property.

Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) include:

Snowmobiles, quads, mini-bikes, and any additional means of transportation powered other than by muscular or wind power and are built for cross-country travel on land.

You Must:

- ✓ Travel in the same direction as vehicles travelling on the roadway;
- ✓ Travel in single file;
- ✓ Travel on the shoulder or parking lane of the roadway or, where it is safe to do so, in the adjacent ditch, except when making a left-turn onto an adjacent roadway;
- ✓ Travel at a maximum speed not exceeding 40 kilometers per hour or the posted speed limit, whichever is lower;
- ✓ Be registered and insured pursuant to the Traffic Safety Act;
- ✓ Be at least 16 years of age and hold a valid operator's license; or
- ✓ Be at least 14 years of age and hold a valid Class 7 Operator's License and is supervised by a person who is at least 18 years old and holds a valid Operator's License and either occupying the passenger seat on the OHV or is on another OHV travelling in close proximity;
- ✓ Ensure you stop the OHV before crossing a road;
- ✓ Yield the right of way to all other vehicles and persons on the road; and
- ✓ Drive across the most direct, shortest, and safest route of travel available.

Restrictions:

- No travelling on Municipal Property or County Parks;
- × No travelling on private property without permission;
- No traveling on a highway, except in accordance with the Bylaw or as otherwise permitted under the *Traffic Safety Act*;
- × No traveling on a rural road between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.;
- No travelling on the road or ditch with OHV that is not equipped with headlamps, tail lamps, an exhaust muffler, and such other equipment as required by the Off-Highway Vehicle Regulation;
- No riding as a passenger where the number of persons riding the OHV exceeds the seating capacity of the OHV;
- No traveling on any Highway where the County has placed a sign or signs prohibiting such operation; and
- No traveling in streams, rivers, lakes or on beds or shores of watercourses, wetlands, or waterbodies unless on designated trail or crossing, or if granted special authorization by Environmental and Parks.



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Protective Gear

When traveling on Public Land, helmets are required for OHV's <u>unless</u> you are on a side by side and person(s) are **wearing seat belts**, and the OHV has a roll cage.

To operate an OHV, the operator and passenger must wear a Safety Helmet securely attached to the person's head unless you are excluded as per the *Traffic Safety Act* or *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. A Safety Helmet is defined as a helmet intended for use by an operator or passenger of an OHV that meets one or more of the standards for motorcycle safety helmets adopted in the *Vehicle Equipment Regulation* passed pursuant to the *Traffic Safety Act*.

Where can you drive OHV'S in the County of Wetaskiwin?

OHVs are allowed on Township and Range Road surfaces and in ditches within the County of Wetaskiwin. An OHV may **not** be operated on any highway, road, or ditch along provincial highways unless permission has been granted. You may drive an OHV directly across a highway with the shortest route.

Useful websites

http://www.albertatrailnet.com/for-trail-users/alberta-trail-

maps/https://www.alberta.ca/public-land-use.aspx

https://aohva.com/

https://www.alberta.ca/motorized-recreation-on-public-land.aspx

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/9781460143308 http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/Content/docType41/Production/small_vehicle_booklet_final.pdf

https://www.alberta.ca/public-land-closures

Be aware and respectful of surrounding property and where private property begins.