Desert Wells Multiuse Area cooperative partners

The creation of the Desert Wells Multiuse Area is the result of a commitment by a diverse group, which comprises government agencies, private ranchers, and organized multi-use groups. The group worked together to seek long-term and practical solutions to issues such as illegal shooting, dumping, littering, impacts from unregulated OHV use, and repeated damage to private ranching developments and federal flood control properties.

You need a recreational permit from the State Land Department to park, play and stage on Trust Land at the Desert Wells Multiuse Area. Permits are available by phone or can be obtained at State Land Department offices. For more information call (602) 364-ASLD.

Desert Wells is a multiuse area where you may encounter others at any time. OHV use is an interim use of State Trust Land during the transition from desert to development. Always operate in a safe, ethical and responsible manner when recreating in Arizona.

Team Members and Partners

- A State Land Recreational permit is required to park, play and stage on State Trust land.
- For permit information call (602) 364-ASLD (2753). For OHV Decal information go to www.servicearizona.com.
- Keep out of closed areas and off closed routes (see map).
- Avoid creating excessive dust.
- No dumping or littering.
- Use designated routes only: Cross-country travel is illegal and has always been prohibited in Arizona.
- No target shooting.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages while operating any vehicle is strictly prohibited.

Notice:

High Population Advisory on Arizona Trust land. Operation of any Motor Vehicle other than Point-to-Point is prohibited.
Respect the area

- Keep out of closed areas.
- It is illegal to harass wildlife.
- Avoid creating dust. Excessive dust complaints can force OHV closures.
- A State Land Department Recreational permit is required to park, play, and stage on State Trust Land. The new OHV Decal allows for crossing Trust Land on designated trails.
- Cross-country travel is prohibited for all users, motorized and nonmotorized. This type of illegal use leads to severe habitat damage and use area closures.
- Respect the rights of others sharing the same trails, including hikers and horseback riders.
- Be aware of the potential for your vehicle to frighten pets, horses, and cattle.
- It is illegal to operate an OHV while intoxicated.
- It is illegal to operate an OHV with careless disregard for persons or property.
- Target shooting is strictly prohibited.
- Stay away from stock tanks, ponds and the berms and dams around them.
- Do not litter.
- Leave all gates as you find them, either open or closed.
- Designated open roads within the Desert Wells Multiuse Area are marked on all entry gates and on the enclosed map.

Protect your right to ride

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is responsible for managing Arizona’s wildlife and for helping to protect wildlife habitat. By law, the department is responsible for identifying habitat damaged by off-highway vehicles, providing information and education about off-highway vehicles, and enforcing off-highway vehicle laws. OHVs include motorcycles, four-wheel drive vehicles, dune buggies, all-terrain vehicles, pick-up trucks, sand rails, sport utility vehicles, and any other motorized vehicle that is operated off of main roads. The Arizona Game and Fish Department encourages OHV users to protect wildlife habitat by following all rules and regulations.

Keep it legal

OHV title, registration, license plates and the OHV Decal

The Arizona Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) is responsible for title, registration, and the OHV Decal on any motor vehicle in Arizona. MVD offices are located statewide. For immediate service you can go online to www.servicearizona.com.

- Title, registration and the OHV Decal are all separate things. A title is proof of ownership, registration allows you to operate on maintained roads, and the OHV Decal is a “user play, user pay” program developed by law to better manage OHV use in Arizona.

- TITLE — Beginning in 1985 all newly purchased OHVs in Arizona were required to have an Arizona title and license plate. Those plates had the letters RV for recreational vehicle. The RV plate allows for use over unimproved roads and trails. As of July 1, 2009, ALL OHVs in Arizona will now need to obtain a title from MVD and, if qualified, need to obtain an OHV Decal.

- REGISTRATION — If the driver of an OHV is going to drive on Arizona streets, highways or improved roads, known as being “street legal,” the vehicle must be registered. Some special equipment may need to be added to your machine to meet the street legal standards. Registration plates contain the letters MC and are licensed to the owner of the OHV. If you are driving in the Phoenix or Tucson area, you will also need to have an emissions test if you live in metropolitan areas.

- OHV DECAL — If your vehicle is made by the manufacturer primarily for use over unimproved terrain and your vehicle weighs 1,800 pounds or less you are required to obtain the OHV Decal. Both titled and registered owners with vehicles that meet these requirements need to obtain the OHV Decal from MVD. The decal is valid for one year from the date of purchase. This is not registration nor is it especially for off-highway use. This is a user pay, user pay program designed to help better manage OHV use in Arizona. Revenue collected will be used for grant programs, educational opportunities, and most importantly, OHV law enforcement.

Equipment

- Minimum equipment necessary to ride:
  - Brakes in good working order
  - Headlight(s)
  - Taillight
  - Red rear reflector, if not part of the tailight
  - License plate
  - Muffler (in good working order)
  - Rearview mirror
  - Seat and footrests for the operator
  - License plate light
  - Horn

An emissions test may be required if you live in metropolitan Phoenix or Tucson and some areas of Yavapai County.

Alcohol and drugs

The operation of an OHV requires skill and good judgment. Alcohol and drugs impair both. Drivers become dangers to themselves and others when operating a motorized vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Laws regarding DUID apply everywhere in Arizona. OHV drivers can be arrested while driving under the influence, even on a backcountry trail. The penalties, including jail and the loss of your driver’s license, are the same whether you are driving a car on a state highway or an OHV on a trail.