So what does this mean for the typical hunter with an ATV? It’s simple. If ATV users are irresponsible with the use of their machines, then there will be increasing pressure on land and wildlife management agencies to restrict ATV use during hunting season. Already there are people, among them other hunters, who are asking for a total ban on ATV use during hunting season.

Nobody likes regulations; but if irresponsible ATV use continues to cause unacceptable impacts, then regulations will become necessary to ensure protection of public lands. A better alternative would be for ATV users to recognize the impacts their activity can cause and voluntarily take steps to reduce those impacts. ATV users are not unique in this respect — as more and more people use public lands for recreation, the potential impacts of these activities are growing fast. Virtually all recreation users — jeeps, horse enthusiasts, rafters, snowmobilers, bikers, campers, rock climbers, motorcyclists, anglers, and mountain bikers — are being asked to reduce the impact of their activities, so that public lands can be enjoyed by this and future generations.

### Responsibility or Regulation?

**The Choice is Yours!**

For more information regarding this and other hunting or motorized access subjects contact the following:

- **BLM, Wyoming State Office**
  - PO Box 1628
  - Cheyenne, WY 82001
  - (307) 777-4296
- **Wyoming Game and Fish Department**
  - 5400 Bishop Blvd.
  - Cheyenne, WY 82006
  - (307) 777-4600
- **Big Horns National Forest**
  - 2015 Eastside 2nd St.
  - Sheridan, WY 82801
  - (307) 674-2600
- **Black Hills National Forest**
  - Beadlode Ranger District
  - PO Box 600
  - Sundance, WY 82723
  - (307) 285-5050
- **Hill’s Canyon Ranger District**
  - 1125 Washington St.
  - Newcastle, WY 82701
  - (307) 746-2700
- **Ashley National Forest**
  - Flaming Gorge Ranger District
  - PO Box 279
  - Manila, UT 84046
  - (435) 784-5445
- **Caribou-Targhee National Forest**
  - 1405 Hollipark Drive
  - Pocatello, ID 83401
  - (208) 524-7500

**Remember...**

- **Liability Insurance**: 15 annual permit may be purchased from selling agents across the state or by calling (307) 777-7477. When on roads, operators must have a valid drivers license.
- **ORV permits** are mostly restricted to travel upon only established roads and trails. They may be operated upon public lands only when on roads, trails or areas designated “open” for motorized travel by the appropriate local land manager. Contact the local land manager’s office to see what is open for ORV use.
- **When on ROADS (Forest Service, BLM, state park or other) designated part of the ORV Program, operators must have a valid driver’s license; the ORV must have brake lights, taillights and headlamps if operated from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise.
- **When on roads (state, county, local or other) NOT designated part of the state ORV Program, an ORV may be operated only if it is street legal and has motorcycle plates; the operator must have a motorcycle operator’s license and carry proof of liability insurance.

http://wyotrails.state.wy.us

50,000 copies of this brochure were printed by the Wyoming Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Program. A special thank you to the State of Idaho for the initial creation of this brochure.
ATVs provide many advantages to hunters, and as a result the use of ATVs during hunting season has increased dramatically in the last 10 years. While ATVs have made access to some backcountry areas and big game retrieval easier for many hunters, their increased use has created some problems:

- **HUNTER CONFLICT:** Conflict is occurring where ATVs have increased access into areas that were lightly used in the past.
- **NOISE:** The sound of an ATV may chase deer and elk away from other hunters. This creates hard feelings among hunters who used stealth and stalking skills to get into a prime spot only to have their efforts spoiled by an ATV.
- **CLOSED AREAS:** Operation of an ATV in areas where they are not allowed irritates other hunters who have specifically selected their hunting area to avoid motorized vehicles.
- **OFF-TRAIL USE:** Cross country travel on ATVs can create a network of new travelways that cause soil erosion and damage to fish and wildlife habitats.
- **FAIR CHASE:** Increasing numbers of hunters are actually hunting with their ATVs rather than on foot. This behavior raises concerns of “fair chase” and can reflect poorly on hunting and hunters.

**Here are a few tips:**

- Know the vehicle use regulations for the area you are hunting. Contact the local BLM Field Office, Forest Service Ranger District, Office of State Lands or Wyoming Department of State Parks office for travel management information before you go. Respect road and area closures.
- Stay on existing roads or trails. Do not contribute to resource damage and habitat destruction by creating new travelways for others to follow.
- ATV travelways within riparian zones or on steep slopes inflict vegetation damage and soil erosion. Don’t make the problem worse by continuing to use these routes.
- To increase your chances of success and cause less disturbance to hunters around you, access your hunting area on existing roads and trails before shooting hours, then hunt on foot.
- Retrieve harvested big game during the middle of the day (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) to reduce conflicts with other hunters. Travel off trail only if travel regulations permit.
- Have respect for other users. Slow down or stop your ATV when you approach others on the trail. When meeting equestrians, approach slowly, pull over and stop, turn off your engine, remove your helmet and ask how best to proceed.
- Avoid the use of ATVs in wet areas or during wet conditions. Even though the lighter weight and low-pressure tires reduce impacts, ATVs can still do serious damage to wet areas.
- Keep your ATV properly tuned and muffled to reduce exhaust sounds and emissions.
- Don’t widen single-track trails by forcing your ATV down the trail.
- When overtaking others, pass in a safe and courteous manner.
- Limit ATV use in and around campgrounds. Be respectful of other campers’ desires for quiet and minimal disruption.

These are simple things, but they can go a long way toward reducing the impact of ATV use. They will protect the habitat and improve the hunting experience. Following these guidelines will reduce the need for more regulations and help retain the ATV opportunities that currently exist.

**Interesting Facts:**

- Elk use declines in areas adjacent to roads open to motorized vehicles.
- Slow-moving vehicles on primitive roads and trails are more disturbing to elk than fast-moving vehicles on highways.
- As motorized vehicle access increases, the quality and amount of elk habitat are degraded. An open road density of three linear miles of road per square mile of land seriously reduces the value of that area for elk. An open road density of six linear miles per square mile can reduce elk use to near zero.
- Hunter check station information has shown that hunters using ATVs are often less successful than other hunters.