

# Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Requirements

**Joint Transportation, Highways &  
Military Affairs Committee**

**Casper, WY**

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# Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Requirements



W.S. 31-5-1601 Operation on Highways

## Issue

Operating Off-Road Recreational Vehicles (ORV) on highways designated as Wyoming off-road recreation trails does not require the vehicles to have insurance or the necessary safety equipment.

## Discussion

- ORV opportunities are increasing in the state
- This includes traveling with or near other traffic on non-interstate highways
- Current statute does not require insurance and safety equipment on ORVs consistent with other vehicles traveling on non-interstate highways

## Recommendation

Modify W.S. 31-5-1601(a) to include insurance and safety equipment requirements.

# Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Requirements



## W.S. 31-5-1601 Operation on Highways

(a) An off-road recreational vehicle may be operated upon any public road rights-of-way, streets, roads or highways within Wyoming subject to the following conditions:

(i) Off-road recreational vehicles may be operated on main-traveled roadways only upon that portion of a public road right-of-way, street, road or highway designated open by the state, local or federal agency with jurisdiction over the roadway and designated a Wyoming off-road recreational vehicle trail pursuant to W.S. 31-2-701 through 31-2-707 by the department of state parks and cultural resources. No portion of a public road right-of-way, street, road or highway shall be designated as a Wyoming off-road recreational vehicle trail by the department without the consent of the state, local or federal agency with jurisdiction over the roadway. Off-road recreational vehicles operated upon roadways designated as trails shall be subject **only** to the user registration fee prescribed by W.S. 31-2-703, **proof of financial responsibility outlined in W.S. 31-9-402 through W.S. 31-9-415**, and shall not be deemed a motorcycle as defined in W.S. 31-1-101(a)(xv)(E)(I) and 31-5-102(a)(xxii). Nothing in this paragraph shall be deemed to authorize the department to acquire or expand any public road right-of-way in order to accommodate the operation of off-road recreational vehicles;

(ii) Crossings of main-traveled roadways shall be made at right angles to the roadway or as nearly so as practicable, but in any case yielding the right-of-way to all traffic in the main-traveled roadway;

(iii) When operating at any time from one-half (1/2) hour after sunset to one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise, the off-road recreational vehicle shall be equipped with lighted lamps and illuminating devices in accordance with W.S. 31-5-910 through 31-5-940;

(iv) The off-road recreational vehicle shall be equipped with an adequate braking device that may be operated either by hand or foot, **a horn pursuant to W.S. 31-5-952(a), and mirrors pursuant to W.S. 31-5-954 as if registered under W.S. 31-2-232**; and

(v) If operated on state or federal lands, the off-road recreational vehicle shall be equipped with:

(A) An approved spark arrester;

(B) A noise muffler which produces a propulsion noise level of not more than one hundred two (102) decibels at twenty (20) inches in a stationary test.



Questions?