

# 2001-02 Recreational Motor Vehicles Regulations

# **Off-highway Motorcycles**

# Off-road Vehicles

KFM 5697.75 .S64 M562 2001/ 2002

# All-terrain Vehicles



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This is a summary of Minnesota's safety laws, rules and regulations for recreational motor vehicles. For the purposes of this guide, recreational motor vehicles include all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles and off-road vehicles. For complete regulations, consult state statutes and rules.

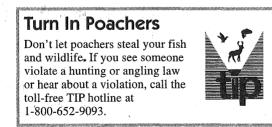
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# Welcome

People enjoy using recreational motor vehicles for trail-riding, off-road transportation, competition and other activities. Your attitude toward your surroundings and your behavior as a rider affect the attitudes of other outdoor users, landowners and lawmakers. Ride responsibly!

If you tread lightly on the environment, are courteous to others, respect private property and obey the law, you are contributing to the positive image of recreational motor vehicle activities. Responsible riders are also safe riders. Be sure to wear appropriate protective gear and maintain your machine. Don't take chances that endanger yourself or others.

Remember, the future of recreational motor vehicles in Minnesota depends on your responsible behavior today.



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# A Message

# From Your DNR Conservation Officers:

Despite manufacturer's warnings and restrictive laws, chil-



dren continue to sustain severe injuries operating allterrain vehicles. Conservation officers believe that most ATV users do not understand the short wheel base design and power of the ATV that may cause the machine to flip over forwards or backwards. This is the

number one cause of death and injury in ATV accidents.

Read carefully the ATV Safety Section starting on page 23. Talk to your children about the dangers and risks associated with riding an ATV. The result could be the prevention of serious injury or death.

# DEFINITIONS

The term Recreational Motor Vehicle (RMV) is used to describe all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles and off-road vehicles.

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are motorized, flotation-tired vehicles with at least three, but no more than six low pressure



tires, with an engine displacement of less than 800 cubic centimeters and total dry weight of less than 800 pounds. ATVs with a total dry weight of more than 800 pounds are classified as ORVs.

Off-highway motorcycles (OHMs) are motorized, off-highway vehicles traveling on two wheels. OHMs have a seat or saddle



designed to be straddled by the operator and have handlebars for steering control. Motorcycles may be legal for highway use and still considered to be OHMs if used for off-highway operation on trails or natural terrain.

Off-road vehicles (ORVs) are motorized, recreational vehicles



capable of cross-country travel on natural terrain, such as four-wheel-drive trucks and ATVs that have an engine displacement of more than 800 cubic centimeters or total dry weight of more than 800 pounds. Vehicles

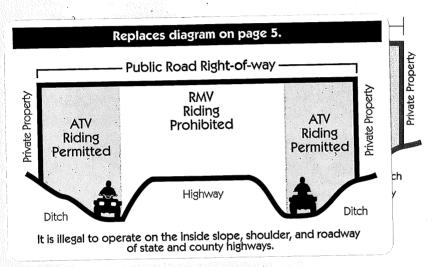
NOT considered ORVs include snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, watercraft or aircraft. Farm, logging, military, emergency, law enforcement, utility, trail-grooming and construction vehicles are not considered to be ORVs when used for their intended purpose.

Agricultural zone means the areas in Minnesota lying south and



west of a line along the following highway right-ofways: Starting at the North Dakota border, the line goes east along State Highway 10 to State Highway 23, then follows Highway 23 east to State Highway 95, which it follows to the Wisconsin border. The agricultural zone referred to in this guide applies only to ATV use.

Public road right-of-way means the entire right-of-way of a roadway that is not privately owned, including the traveled portions, banks, ditches, shoulders and medians.



Recreational motor vehicle staging area means a parking lot, trail head, campground or other location to which a recre-

- \* ational motor vehicle is transported by truck, trailer or another motor vehicle for use on public lands.
- **Recreational motor vehicle use areas** are areas posted or designated for recreational motor vehicle use.



ATV Trail Indicator



OHM Trail Indicator



ORV Trail Indicator

# **RECREATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLES**

# REGISTRATION

An individual must be at least 18 years old to register a recreational motor vehicle. Generally, registration is valid for three years (see page 7).

Anyone who sells a recreational motor vehicle must provide a bill of sale to the buyer.

#### **ATVs**

All ATVs operated in Minnesota must be registered with the DNR, even if used exclusively on private property.

#### OHMs

All OHMs operated on public lands or waters must be registered with the DNR.

#### **ORVs**

All ORVs operated off-road must be registered with the DNR. In addition, individuals may not have ORVs which are not licensed for highway use in possession at an RMV staging area, designated trail or other designated area unless the vehicle has been registered with the DNR for off-road use.

# Minnesota registration is NOT required for:

Recreational motor vehicles registered in another state or country and not in Minnesota for more than 30 days.

ATVs and OHMs that are used exclusively in organized track racing events.

OHMs used on private land with the landowner's permission.

OHMs registered for highway use when operated on forest roads.

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# **REGISTRATION FEES**

#### ATV Registration Fees

	Fee	Filing Fee	Duration
Public Use Registration	18.00	3.50	3 calendar years
Transfer	4.00	3.50	
Duplicate	4.00	3.50	
Private/Agricultural	6.00	3.50	As long as machine is
			· held by same party
Private/Agricultural Duplicate	4.00	3.50	
Dealer	50.00	3.50	1 year
Manufacturer	150.00	3.50	1 year
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**OHM Registration Fees** 

	Fee	Filing Fee	Duration
New Registration	30.00	3,50	3 calendar years
Transfer	4.00	3.50	
Duplicate	4.00	3.50	
Dealer	50.00	3.50	1 year
Manufacturer	150.00	3,50	1 year

# **ORV** Registration Fees

	Fee	Filing Fee	Duration
New Registration	30.00	3.50	3 calendar years
Transfer	4.00	3.50	
Duplicate	4.00	3.50	
Dealer	50.00	3.50	1 year
Manufacturer	150.00	3.50	1 year

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#### How To Register A Recreational Motor Vehicle

Recreational motor vehicles can be registered at a deputy registrar of motor vehicles office (where automobile licenses are handled) or at the DNR License Center in St. Paul.

The information required for registration of a recreational motor vehicle includes the make, model, year, serial number, and sales receipt. For ATV and OHM registration the engine size is also required.

- ATVs purchased from a retail dealer must be registered by the dealer. Transfers and registration renewals are the responsibility of the owner.
- OHMs purchased from a retail dealer that will be used on public lands or waters **must be registered by the dealer**. Transfers and registration renewals are the responsibility of the owner.
- A registration number and a decal are issued when an ATV or OHM is registered.
- Because ORVs are sold primarily for highway use, owners must register their own ORVs for designated trail and staging area use. The owner is given a registration card and decals at the time of registration.

Individuals are not required to carry the registration card, but it must be provided within a reasonable time period when an enforcement officer requests to see it.

# Alternative and Multiple Registrations

#### ATV

**Private Use Registration:** ATVs may be registered for private use when used exclusively for agricultural activities or harvesting wood, or used exclusively on private property. A private use registration is valid until the ownership of the ATV is transferred and is not transferable.

**Dual Registration:** Some circumstances require ATVs to be registered for both public and private use. Public use registration covers most situation where the private use registration is required, but it does not cover certain situations where ATVs must be operated on roadways. Public use registration allows for operation of ATVs on the outer slope of roadside ditches along state and county roads, and, if local laws do not prohibit, on the extreme right side of township roads. It does not, however, allow for operation on the road surface. If an ATV is used for agricultural purposes which require operation on the road surface, a private use registration is required. If the same ATV is also used on public land or water, both public and private use registrations are required.

#### OHM

**Dual Registration:** Some OHMs are equipped in such a manner that they may be legally licensed for highway use. An OHM licensed for highway use, which is also used on public lands or waters must have both the regular motorcycle license and the DNR OHM registration.

#### ORV

**Dual Registration:** Most ORVs are licensed for highway use. An ORV licensed for highway use, which is also operated in designated public ORV use areas or trails must have both the regular vehicle license and the DNR ORV registration.

### **Dealer** and Manufacturer Registration

RMV dealers and manufacturers must register with the DNR to operate machines for testing or demonstration purposes. A registration certificate and a registration plate will be issued. The registration certificate must be prominently displayed in the place of business.

The registration plate must be displayed on the vehicle before dealers or manufacturers may operate or permit operation of any recreational motor vehicle they own or control.

Dealer and manufacturer license applications and plates are ONLY available at the DNR License Center, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4026, 1(800) 285-2000 or (651) 296-2316.

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# Display of Numbers and Decals ATV

ATVs registered for public use or with a dual registration must display current public use registration number and decal(s) on a plate at least 4 inches high and 7½ inches long. The plate must be clearly visible on the back of the vehicle and at least 12 inches from the ground. For a public use registration, the decal must be displayed in the upper left section of the plate. For a dual registration, the private use decal must also be displayed on the plate, in the upper right corner. The plate and decal must be maintained in a clear and legible condition.

#### **Registration letters and numbers must be:**

- $\blacklozenge$  at least 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches high with a <sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub>-inch stroke
- In English and placed from left to right
- in a color that contrasts with the background of the plate.



ATV Public Use



**ATV Dual Registration** 

ATVs registered for private use only must display the private use decal in the upper right section of the plate. No numbers are needed for this type of registration.



ATV Private Use

#### OHM

OHMs registered only for off-road use must display current registration number and decal on a plate at least 4 inches high and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches long. The plate must be clearly visible on the back of the vehicle and at least 12 inches from the ground. The decal must be displayed in the upper left section of the plate.

The plate and decal must be maintained in a clear and legible condition.

#### **Registration letters and numbers must be:**

- a at least 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches high with a <sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub>-inch stroke
- In English and placed from left to right
- in a color that contrasts with the background of the plate.



OHM Off-Road Use Only

OHMs licensed in Minnesota for highway use and also used on public lands or waters must display the OHM decal in the upper left section of the regular motorcycle license plate. The DNR registration number should <u>not</u> be displayed.



OHM Highway and Off-Road Use

#### ORV

ORVs registered only for designated trail or area use must display the current decal on a plate at least 4 inches high and 7½ inches long. No registration number should be displayed. The plate must be clearly visible on the back of the vehicle and at least 12 inches from the ground. The decal must be displayed in the upper left section of the plate. The plate and decal must be maintained in a clear and legible condition.



ORV Off-Road Use Only

ORVs licensed in Minnesota for highway use and also used off-road in designated public ORV trails and use areas must display the ORV decal in the upper left section of the regular motor vehicle license plate. The DNR registration number should <u>not</u> be displayed.



ORV Highway and Off-Road Use

# **Expiration and Renewal**

The expiration date appears on both the registration card and the decal. All public use ATV and all OHM and ORV renewals expire on December 31st of the last year the registration is valid.

Individuals who notify the DNR of mailing address changes should receive a notice by mail to renew their registration. Whether notified or not, owners are responsible for renewing their public use ATV, OHM and ORV registrations. Renewal fees are the same as the first-time registration fee.

Private use ATV registration does not expire. It is valid until the ownership is transferred.

#### **Replacement Registration Cards**

Recreational motor vehicle owners may obtain a replacement registration card for \$7.50 from a deputy registrar or the DNR License Center. Replacement decals are available from the DNR License Center or the Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicles at a charge of \$3.50. Replacement decals and numbers must be affixed in the same manner as the original.

# **GENERAL OPERATIONS**

The following regulations apply to all recreational motor vehicles: all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles and offroad vehicles. Information and regulations specific to each of these vehicle types can be found in the All-Terrain Vehicle, Off-**12**  Highway Motorcycle and Off-Road Vehicle sections of this booklet.

A valid driver's license is required to operate anywhere on road rights-of-way, including ditches, inside and outside slopes, and crossing roads. THE ONLY EXCEPTION would be for those portions of a designated trail that specifically include a road right-of-way.

### **Required Equipment**

Recreational motor vehicles operated on public lands, waters, trails, public streets and roads open to vehicle use must be equipped as follows:

#### Lights

Headlights and taillights must be on during hours of darkness or reduced visibility.

#### Brakes

Brakes must control movement, and stop and hold the vehicle.
Throttle

The throttle must return the engine to idle when pressure to advance the throttle is removed.

#### Mufflers

- Mufflers must have a federally approved spark arrestor.
- Overall noise emission may not exceed 99 decibels at a distance of 20 inches.
- Mufflers may not be altered to increase motor noise, or have a cutout, bypass, or similar device except for organized events. Towing
- A straight arm bar must be used to tow a sled or trailer containing passengers.
- A disabled vehicle towed by any means may contain a person to steer.
- At least 16 square inches of reflective material that is unobstructed and visible, must be mounted on each side and at the rear of a sled or trailer.

Where You May Ride.

#### **You may operate a recreational motor vehicle:** • on your own land

- In on private land with the landowner's permission
- on frozen waters where you have legal access (if not restricted by law or local ordinances)
- In public lands that are open to RMVs. Land uses vary, be sure to check federal, state, and local ordinances for details.

### In the seven-county metro area, you may ride:

- In your own land
- on land other than your own, with written or spoken permission of the landowner, occupant or lessee



• on land posted with signs specifically permitting the use of recreational motor vehicles.

# Where You May NOT Ride

Also see specific sections for additional restrictions.

## You may not operate a recreational motor vehicle:

- In the median of a four-lane highway
- within the right-of-way of any interstate highway
- In the right-of-way between opposing lanes of traffic
- ♦ at airports
- in most state parks, state recreation areas, state historic sites, wildlife management areas or state scientific and natural areas with the exception of posted trails and areas
- on any frozen waters located in a restricted area, or frozen waters where you don't have legal access
- in any areas restricted by local ordinances or municipalities
- ♦ in a tree nursery or planting area
- \* along or on the roadway, shoulder, inside bank or slope of a public right-of-way, (see diagram page 5).
- ♦ on agricultural land, (see page 21 and page 27).
- on state forest lands that are posted or designated closed to motorized uses.

Inside the seven-county metro area, you may not ride on land you do not own, unless given written or verbal permission to ride on that land by the owner, occupant or lessee. **Outside the seven-county metro area, you may not ride** on land that you have been told verbally, in writing, or by posted signs not to ride.

# **Other Prohibitions**

#### You may not:

- operate a recreational motor vehicle in a careless, reckless or heedless manner that endangers another person or their property
- litter
- Inter or leave lands by cutting wire or tearing down any fence
- mutilate, destroy, damage or remove any facility of any trail on state land
- post, damage or remove any signs on any lands or waters unless you are the landowner, occupant or lessee of the property.

# **Check For Local Regulations or Ordinances**

Cities, towns, and counties may further regulate the operation of recreational motor vehicles within their jurisdiction. Check with the appropriate local unit of government for additional regulations. National forests and Voyagers National Park regulate motor vehicle use on federal lands. Check with the managing agency before riding on these lands.

#### Speed

You may not operate a recreational motor vehicle at a speed greater than is reasonable under all of the surrounding circumstances or greater than the posted speed limit on any public lands, waters, trails, or public road rights-of-way. Speed limit signs may be erected along specific portions of trails.

The speed limit may be waived in writing by the DNR for an organized race or similar competitive event. Contact the DNR at 1-888-MINNDNR (646-6367).

# **Trail Riding**

- ♦ All trail signs must be obeyed.
- One-way trails must be traveled in the direction indicated.
- When meeting or being passed by another trail user, you must stay to the right half of the treadway.
- When passing another trail user, you must pass on the left half of the treadway and only when the trail is free from oncoming traffic for a sufficient distance to safely pass the other trail user.
- When entering or crossing a trail treadway you must yield to trail traffic.
- When two trail users are about to enter an unmarked treadway intersection from different directions, the trail user to the right has the right-of-way.
- Motorized trail users must yield the right-of-way to nonmotorized trail users and shut off their machines when meeting a horse until the horse has passed or until waved on.

#### **Crossing Public Roads**

A driver's license is required to operate anywhere on road rights-of-way, including ditches, inside and outside slopes, and crossing roads. THE ONLY EXCEPTION would be for those portions of a designated trail that specifically include a road right-of-way.

#### When making a direct crossing of a street or road:

- come to a complete stop and look both ways
- ♦ yield to all traffic
- Cross the road at a 90 degree angle
- \* cross a divided road only at an intersection.

#### **Bridges and Obstructions**

You may operate a recreational motor vehicle on a bridge, a roadway shoulder or the inside bank of a public road right-ofway if necessary to avoid obstructions to travel. You must remain on the farthest right-hand lane, enter the roadway within 100 feet of the bridge or obstacle and make the crossing without delay. You may not cross an interstate highway bridge.

# **STATE FOREST LANDS**

Rules Relating to Motor Vehicle Operation on State Forest Lands - Minnesota Rules 6100.1950 (partial)

State forest lands are classified by the commissioner for purposes of motor vehicle use. "Motor vehicle" means any selfpropelled vehicle including, but not limited to, automobiles, trucks, dune buggies, minibikes, motorcycles, trail bikes, and all terrain vehicles (ATVs), but not including snowmobiles. Motor vehicle use is regulated as follows:

#### State Forest Lands Classified as Managed:

Motor vehicles may operate on forest roads and forest trails unless they are posted and designated closed.

#### State Forest Lands Classified as *Limited*:

- Motor vehicles may operate on forest roads **unless** they are posted and designated closed.
- Motor vehicles may operate ONLY on forest trails or areas that are posted and designated open.
- Exception: Persons lawfully engaged in hunting big game or constructing hunting stands during October, November, and December, or trapping during open seasons, may use ATVs off forest trails in a manner consistent with the general operating restrictions. This exception does not apply in the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest.

#### State Forest Lands Classified as Closed:

- Motor vehicles and snowmobiles are not allowed except:
  - Vehicles licensed for highway use may use forest roads that are not posted or gated closed.
  - Vehicles may operate on frozen public waters where it is not otherwise prohibited.
  - Snowmobiles may operate on designated trails.

#### General Operating Restrictions - anywhere on state forest lands that motor vehicles are allowed.

- No motor vehicle operation is allowed on designated nonmotorized trails unless also posted open for a motorized use.
- No motor vehicle operation is allowed on or over the beds of lakes, rivers or streams except:

- when the water body is ice covered
- on a bridge, culvert or designated low water crossing.
- Motor vehicles or snowmobiles may not operate on forest lands in a manner that causes erosion or rutting, damages, or destroys trees or growing crops. The rutting provision does not apply on designated motorized trails.
- Motor vehicles or snowmobiles may not operate within the boundaries of an area that is posted and designated as closed to such use.
- Motor vehicles on state forest roads must travel at a reasonable and prudent speed; obey posted speed limits, parking and traffic regulation signs; observe road closures; and may not operate in a manner that causes damage to the road, land or other natural resources.
- No person shall construct an unauthorized permanent trail on forest lands.
- Special Provision Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest: Motor vehicles and snowmobiles may operate on forest roads that are not posted closed and ONLY on forest trails that are designated for motorized use. No motorized travel is allowed off of designated trails under any circumstances. *Motorized trails are open for ATV and OHM use from May 1 to November 1.*

# State Forests Classified as Limited

- Chengwatana state Forest
- D.A.R. State Forest
- General C.C. Andrews State Forest
- R.J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State forest
- Rum River State Forest
- St. Croix State Forest
- Snake River State Forest

#### State Forests Classified as Closed

- Birch Lakes State Forest
- Lake Isabella State Forest
- Insula Lake State Forest
   San
- • Sand Dunes State Forest

#### State Forests not listed above are classified as Managed.

#### **Events On State Forest Lands**

A permit is required from a DNR area forester to hold an event on state forest lands. The DNR may charge a fee for the use of the land. Security such as a bond or cashier's check may be required to ensure that cleanup, sign removal, damage, repairs **18**  and other actions are completed.

For emergencies or authorized special events, the DNR may provide temporary exceptions to the general rules for a specific state park, forest campground, forest day use area or state forest lands. Notice of the exception will be posted at the site.

# **OPERATING WHILE INTOXICATED**

Operating a recreational motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or other hazardous substance is unlawful. Operators who are impaired may be required to submit to tests by an enforcement officer to determine the presence of these substances. There is a separate, additional criminal penalty for refusal to submit to the test requests, and the person's operating privileges for the vehicle type will be suspended for one year upon refusal. RMV DWI convictions and refusals are recorded on the violator's driver's license record and may affect their driver's license privileges.

An operator who is found to be impaired can be charged with a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony (effective August 1, 2002) level DWI. Persons convicted of a misdemeanor will be subject to: up to \$1,000 fine (plus surcharges); possible jail sentence; and loss of RMV operating privileges for one year.

In addition to the above misdemeanor penalties, the following gross misdemeanor penalty provisions may apply if the person has any prior DWI violations, has an alcohol concentration of .20 or more, or has a child under 16 years of age with them on the RMV:

- up to \$3,000 fine
- longer, mandatory jail time
- chemical use assessment and long-term monitoring programs
- loss of motor vehicle driver's license privileges
- motor vehicle plate impoundment of all motor vehicles owned or leased individually or jointly by the person
- forfeiture of the RMV, and
- substantially higher fines.

# ENFORCEMENT

Conservation officers, deputy sheriffs, police officers and other peace officers enforce recreational motor vehicle rules. You must stop when signaled by a law enforcement officer.

### Penalties

- Fleeing an enforcement officer is a felony. In addition, the RMV used may be forfeited.
- A violation of ATV or ORV laws is a misdemeanor.
- A violation of OHM laws is a petty misdemeanor or a misdemeanor.

**Reporting Stolen, Abandoned or Destroyed Vehicles** 

A registered recreational motor vehicle that is abandoned, stolen, or destroyed must be reported to the DNR within 15 days. Complete the reverse side of the registration certificate and mail it to the DNR License Center. No fee is charged for reporting the vehicle.

### **Accident Reports**

The operator and an officer investigating a recreational motor vehicle accident must file a written report of the accident to the DNR within 10 days if:

- the accident resulted in a human injury requiring medical attention or hospitalization, or death; or
- the total damage was \$300 or more for ORVs, or \$500 or more for ATVs or OHMs.

# TRESPASS

Ask First! The trespass law now applies to all outdoor recreation including operation of your recreational motor vehicle.

Landowners, lessees or land managers need only post their land once a year. The signs



must be at intervals of 1,000 ft (500 ft in wooded areas) or signs may be placed at primary corners and at access points to the property. Signs must state "No Trespassing" or similar words in 2 inch letters and the signature or name and telephone number of the landowner, lessee or manager.

Just because property isn't posted, that doesn't mean you have the right to enter someone else's private property. The posted signs indicated the landowner's intention to prevent unauthorized entry. There can be civil and criminal penalties for violation of the trespass laws. Civil penalties start at \$50 for first offense, and range up to \$500 and loss of license or registration for a third offense within 3 years.

All conservation and peace officers enforce trespass laws.

#### You must have permission to:

- enter legally posted land
- enter agricultural land. "Agricultural land" is land that is plowed or tilled; has standing crops or crop residue; is within a maintained fence for enclosing domestic livestock; is planted native or introduced hay land or grassland; or is planted to short rotation woody crops (hybrid poplar and other woody plants that are harvested for their fiber within 15 years of planting).

Please Note: All planted grassland, hay land, and shortrotation woody crop land meet the definition of agricultural land, including grasslands enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), or the state RIM Reserve program. These lands do not need to be posted to prevent unauthorized trespass.

#### You may not:

- wound or kill another person's domestic animal or destroy private property
- pass through a closed gate without returning it to the original position
- ♦ stray off marked trails.

# **RELATED GAME LAWS**

A person may not discharge a firearm or bow and arrow at a grouse, or a decoy of a grouse placed by an enforcement officer, unless the person is at least 20 yards away from a motor vehicle and the motor is turned off. Exceptions will be made only for hunters with disabilities who are in possession of a valid permit allowing them to shoot from a stationary motor vehicle.

# **General Restrictions**

#### It is unlawful to:

- \* transport a firearm on any recreational motor vehicle unless it is unloaded and completely enclosed in a case
- transport an archery bow on any recreational motor vehicle unless it is unstrung or enclosed in a case
- \* use any recreational motor vehicle to chase, run over or kill a wild animal
- shoot or attempt to shoot an animal from any recreational motor vehicle without a special disability permit to do so.

# To reduce disturbance during prime hunting hours, a person possessing a valid deer license may operate a recreational motor vehicle during the firearms deer season only:

- before legal shooting hours (one-half hour before sunrise)
- Irom 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

after legal shooting hours (one-half hour after sunset).
\*The above does not apply to vehicles licensed for highway use.

A permit to operate a recreational motor vehicle during the legal shooting hours for deer may be issued by a conservation officer in the event of an emergency or another unusual condition.

# **Special Permits for Disabled Hunters**

A permit may be issued to shoot from a standing RMV to a licensed hunter who has a permanent physical disability and is unable to step from a vehicle without the aid of a wheelchair, crutches, braces, or other mechanical support or prosthetic device; or is required to use supplemental oxygen to assist breathing because they are unable to walk any distance because of a permanent lung, heart, or other internal disease. For more details contact the Department of Natural Resources Information Center toll free 1-888-MINNDNR (646-6367).



# ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE SAFETY SECTION

ATV owners are cautioned that any inexperienced rider in the first month of operating an ATV has 13 times the average risk of injury. Never permit the inexperienced to operate an ATV until they have read the owner's manual and all warning labels, and have completed a certified training course.

# Know the uniqueness of ATV design and the potential risk of accidents and injury.

### **ATV Design**

High ground clearance and short, narrow wheel base

Seating straddles the top of the machine

Wide, low pressured, knobby tires

Powerful drive train with high and low gear ratios

Fixed rear axle for traction

# **Potential Risk**

Operator must have sufficient size and weight to properly balance the vehicle. ATV may roll or flip with shift of body weight. ATV is more likely to roll than skid in turns and on hillsides.

Requires operator to maintain balance on the machine. Operator can fall or be thrown. No protection for the operator in a collision or roll over.

Wobble or bounce may cause loss of control. Vehicle is more likely to roll than skid in turns and on hillsides.

Has power to climb or accelerate until it flips over backwards. Capable of speed too fast for conditions and or skill of the operator.

Prevents the inner wheel from rotating freely when attempting turns on pavement. Loss of control occurs when torque to the inner wheel releases in the sudden lurch forward.

# **Passenger Restrictions**

To maintain stability and control an ATV operator needs the entire seat to shift position. The weight and position of a

passenger restricts an operator's ability to prevent roll overs and flips.

Because an ATV does not provide foot rests or hand grips for a passenger, the passenger has a high risk of falling or being thrown from the machine.

• State law prohibits a person from operating an

ATV with more persons on the vehicle than it was de signed to carry. Generally, ATVs are not designed to carry passengers.

Beginning July 1, 2001, a new state law provides an exception to this regulation: an adult parent or guardian may operate an ATV with one child under 16 years of age as a passenger provided the child wears a helmet.

# Warning

Approximately 40 percent of ATV related deaths and injuries are to youths under age 16. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission warns that young people, under the age of 16 years, should never operate an adult sized ATV (over 90cc engine size). In addition, state law prohibits youth



under the age of 16 years from operating adult sized ATVs on public lands and waters, including public roads and road right-of-ways.

# Why Children Are At Risk Operating ATVs

Children cannot maintain position or control without increased risk of falling or being thrown from the machine because:

#### Leg Length

A minimum of 3 inches of clearance between the seat and the top inseam of the pants when standing on the foot rests is required to enable the operator to maintain balance on the foot rests when turning and riding over hills and rough terrain.

#### Arm Length

While seated on the machine and gripping the handle bars, there should be a distinct bend in the arm at the elbow. Without a bend, there will not be sufficient reach to properly grip the handle bars when turning.

#### Hand Size

While gripping the handle bar with fingers extended to the brake lever, the first joint of the index finger should extend beyond the brake lever. If it does not, the hand is too small to safely operate the brake.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (USCPSC) states that a variety of factors converge to place children at risk as operators of ATVs including:

- Children believe that any products purchased by their parents are safe.
- Danger and risk are underestimated because of the child's own lack of experience with accidents.
- Children between the ages of 12 and 15 often overestimate their skills, particularly with increased experience.
- Children can easily get into trouble trying to imitate more complex maneuvers of older friends.

All-Terrain Vehicles



**ATV Safety Tips:** 

Always wears a helmet and protective clothing.

See passenger restriction information on page 24.

# **Youthful Operators**

It is unlawful for anyone in control of an ATV to permit it to be operated contrary to the following requirements:

Age Requirement

**Under 12** May operate only on private property with permission of the owner.

12 to 16

All-terrain vehicle safety certificate valid only for engine sizes 90cc or less.

May operate an ATV 90cc or less on public lands and waters with safety certificate and under supervision.\*

May make a direct crossing of highway with safety certificate and while under supervision.\*

Must wear a helmet while operating on public lands, waters and on road right-of-way.

16 to 18

May operate an ATV on public lands and waters without a safety certificate.

Must have a driver's license to make direct crossing of highway, or operate on road right-of-way.

Must wear a helmet while operating on public lands, waters and on road right-of-way.

\* "Supervision" means the person's parent, legal guardian, or other person 18 years of age or older who holds a valid driver's license.

# **ATV Education and Training**

The DNR Division of Enforcement administers an ATV safety training program. The course includes ATV familiarization, operating procedures, ATV laws, loading and towing **26** 

procedures, ethics, safety hazards and environmental consequences.

For a \$5 fee, students who successfully complete the safety training program and written test are issued a safety certificate. Duplicate certificates are available from the DNR if the original is lost or destroyed.

For more information on safety training, call the Safety Training Program Headquarters at 1-800-366-8917, or the DNR Information Center at 1-888-646-6367.

# **General Operations**

• A driver's license is required to operate anywhere on road rights-of-way, including ditches, inside and outside slopes, and crossing roads. THE ONLY EXCEPTION would be for those portions of a designated trail that specifically include a road right-of-way.

• Agricultural zone restriction: You may not drive an ATV within the right-of-way (ditch) of a state or county highway from April 1 to August 1 in the agricultural zone (see definition on page 5). This does not apply to ATVs licensed and used for agricultural use.

• A person with a valid driver's license may operate an ATV registered for private use and being used for agricultural purposes on a public right-of-way of a trunk, county, state aid, or county highway, if the ATV is on the extreme right side of the road. A left turn may be made if it is safe to do so.

• The headlight and taillight must be on at all times if your ATV is equipped with them.

• You may not exceed 10 mph on the frozen surface of public waters within 100 feet of another person that is not on an ATV (including people that are fishing) or within 100 feet of a fish shelter.

•Grant-in-aid snowmobile and ski trails are closed to ATVs unless specifically allowed.

•Operation on a township road: A person with a valid drivers license may operate an ATV on the extreme right-hand side of a township road, as long as the township does not prohibit it by posting and local ordinance.



# OFF-HIGHWAY MOTORCYCLE SAFETY SECTION

Safety Tips:

- Any person who operates an OHM must wear eye protection.
- Always wear a helmet and protective clothing.
- Never carry a passenger on vehicles intended for oneperson use.

# **Youthful Operators**

It is unlawful for anyone in control of an OHM to allow it to be operated contrary to the following requirements:

Any person under the age of 18 must wear a helmet.

- Age Requirement
- **Under 12** May not make a direct crossing of a public road right-of-way.

May not operate an off-highway motorcycle on a public road or public road right-of-way.

May not operate an OHM on public lands or waters unless accompanied on another OHM by a person 18 years of age or older.

**Under 16** Must possess a valid off-highway motorcycle safety permit to operate an OHM on public lands or waters.

May make a direct crossing of a public road (except an interstate highway) if accompanied on another OHM by a person 18 years of age or older who holds a valid driver's license.

May operate within a road right-of-way that is part of a designated trail when accompanied by a person 18 years or older who holds a valid driver's license.

**16–18** Must have a driver's license to operate an OHM on a public road, and the motorcycle must be licensed for road use. A driver's license is not required on trails, except when the trail is part of the road right-of-way.

# **OHM Education and Training**

The DNR Division of Enforcement administers an OHM safety training program. The course includes OHM familiarization, operating procedures, OHM laws, loading and towing procedures, ethics, safety hazards and environmental consequences.

For a \$5 fee, students who successfully complete the training program and written test are issued a safety certificate. Duplicate certificates are available from the DNR if the original is lost or destroyed.

For more information call Safety Training Program Headquarters at 1-800-366-8917or the DNR Information Center 1-888-646-6367.

### **General Operations**

•A valid driver's license is required to operate anywhere on road rights-of-way, including ditches, inside and outside slopes, and crossing roads. THE ONLY EXCEPTION would be for those portions of a designated trail that specifically include a road right-of-way.

•Your OHM must have a headlight, a taillight and brakes to be operated on a public road. The lights must be on while operation on a trunk, county, state aid, or county highway or when crossing a public road right of way, one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise or in conditions of reduced visibility.

•You must wear eye protection when operating an OHM.

•You may not operate an OHM within a public road right-of-way unless it is:

\*a trail designated for OHM use or multiple use

♦a corridor access trail

\*a designated access to an established OHM trail

♦allowed for an organized contest.

•You may not exceed 10 mph on the frozen surface of public waters within 100 feet of a person fishing or a fishing shelter.



# OFF-ROAD VEHICLE SAFETY SECTION

# **Youthful Operators**

A person under 16 years of age may not operate an ORV. The owner of an ORV may not knowingly allow it to be operated by a person under 16 years of age.

# **General Operations**

•All ORV passengers and operators must wear seat belts. •A valid driver's license is required to operate anywhere on road rights-of-way, including ditches, inside and outside slopes, and crossing roads. THE ONLY EXCEPTION would be for those portions of a designated trail that specifically include a road right-of-way.

•ORV's are required to have lights on while crossing public roads one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise and during periods of reduced visibility.

#### You may:

operate on state forest roads unless posted closed.

#### You may not:

- operate an ORV within the right-of-way of an interstate highway
- operate an ORV within a public road right-of-way except on a designated trail, and when in possession of a valid driver's license.

# FOR MORE INFORMATION

# **For information on ATV or OHM safety training call:** DNR Safety Training Program Headquarters, Camp Ripley, Little Falls, MN: 1-800-366-8917, or call the DNR Information Center 651-296-6157, or 1-888-646-6367.

## For information on ATV, OHM, and ORV trails; maps of state parks, forests, and trails; and other information contact:

DNR Information Center 500 Lafayette Rd. St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

Twin Cities: 651-296-6157 Toll free: 1-888-646-6367

Hearing Impaired Twin Cities: 651-296-5484 Toll free: 1-800-657-3929

#### DNR Web Site: www.dnr.state.mn.us

For more information on registering your recreational motor vehicle call:

DNR License Center 500 Lafayette Rd. St. Paul, MN 55155-4026

Twin Cities: 651-296-2316 Toll free: 1-800-285-2000

#### To report a violation:

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Contact your local police department, sheriff's office, the state patrol, or a DNR conservation office. Conservation officers are dispatched through the state patrol. To reach a conservation officer, call your nearest state patrol headquarters.





All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota Since 1983 ATVAM has been working hard to promote and advance all forms of ATV activities. We are not only concerned

about trails and opportunities for the sport rider but for other users as well, whether it be a trail to your favorite fishing hole or making the commute to check a fence line easier, *ATVAM is there for you*. When you join ATVAM you're helping to insure the future of ATV activities in the state of Minnesota.

For Information:

1-800-442-8826 ATVAM P.O. Box 557, Osseo, MN 55369 e-mail: atvam@aol.com / web site: www.atvam.org

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Century Power Equipment 5920 Memorial Ave North Stillwater, MN 55082 Phone: 651–439-2035

> Conklin Arctic Cat Hwy 19 East Winthrop, MN 55396 Phone: 507-647-5342

Northern Kawasaki/Arctic Cat 379 Hwy 33 N Cloquet, MN 55720 Phone: 218-879-3155

> Thomas Sno Sports 1019 Hwy 23 Oglivie, MN 56358 Phone: 320-556-3467 www.thomassnosports.com

Dimmerman Bros Forest Lake Arctic Cat I-35 & Hwy 97 Forest Lake, MN 55025 Phone: 651-464-0758

> Performance Marine 4144 Shoreline Dr Spring Park, MN 55364 Phone: 952-471-9249

> > RV Sports Box 411 Hwy 1 & 59 W Thief River Falls Phone: 800-826-5403

Westside Sports 508 Ash Ave NW Wadena Phone: 218-631-1113

Delano Sport Center 4354 SE Hwy 12 Delano, MN 55328 763-479-2530

> Hamm's Repair 109 E Fletcher Warren, MN 56762 218-745-4298

Honda Town 4215 E Lake St Minneapolis, MN 55406 612-722-1110

Performance Sports RR 1 Box 199 Winona, MN 55987 507-452-3213 Olson's Outdoor Sports 301 S Main Mahnomen, MN 56557 Phone: 218-935-2355

Nidwest Sport Center 12530 Johnson Memorial Hwy Shakopee, MN 55379 952-445-2565

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