Wisconsin All-Terrain Vehicle & Utility-Terrain Vehicle Laws

This pamphlet is not a complete set of ATV/UTV laws; however, it supplies the essential information. Please read it carefully. If you have any questions, contact the Department of Natural Resources or your local law enforcement authorities.

Check with local governing agencies for local ordinances that may be more restrictive than state regulations.

Helmets Save Lives. Wear it Wisconsin!

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PUB-LE-500 2014

Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

For ATV/UTV and safety information,
visit *dnr.wi.gov* and search "ATV" or "UTV"

DNR Call Center **1-888-936-7463**
(7 a.m. – 10 p.m. Seven days/week)
Live chat and e-mail service available

The development and maintenance of Wisconsin's network of ATV/UTV trails is accomplished, in part, through the efforts of ATV/UTV club members and private citizens. Their volunteer time is spent performing the crucial tasks of maintaining and preparing trails by brushing, grading, signing the trails, trail grooming and performing safety inspections.

What's New?

Several changes to the ATV/UTV laws have occurred over recent years. Here's a brief synopsis of the most recent law changes:

Children under age 12 may operate an ATV or UTV on any private property if accompanied by an adult designated by the parent or guardian.

Children between the ages of 12-15 must be accompanied by an adult designated by the parent or guardian when riding on designated road routes. The child still needs safety certification and the accompaniment requirement doesn't apply to off-road trails or while crossing roads.

ATV Safety Certification is not required during certain ATV or UTV demonstration events.

There is no longer a 10 mph speed limit while riding on ATV/UTV road routes when within 150 feet of a dwelling or within 100 feet of a person not operating a motorized vehicle, unless required by a local ordinance. Please check for local regulations. These speed limits are still in place while operating on an off-road trail.

ATVs and UTVs are clearly required to be commericially manufactured and designed by a manufacturer. No homemade vehicles can be registered.

ATV and UTV weights shall be considered in terms of dry weight.

Machines that otherwise mee the ATV definition (specifications), except that they exceed the ATV weight limit may be registered as a UTV if they weigh between 900 and 2000 lbs.

In addition to low-pressure tires, ATVs and UTVs can legally be equipped and operated with non-pneumatic tires.

The UTV definition no longer requires seating for at least two people.

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ATV/UTV Clubs/Organizations

Please consider joining a club, your help is needed. By staying on the trail you show your respect for the hard work of the local clubs and the rights of the property owners who have graciously allowed a trail to cross their property.

ATV/UTV Trail Patrol Ambassador

Want to help others while out on the trail? Consider becoming a volunteer Trail Patrol Ambassador. Go to *www.trailpatrol.com* for more information.

What Can be Registered as an All-Terrain Vehicle?

According to law an ATV must meet all of the following specifications:

- commercially designed and manufactured
- a motor-driven device
- dry weight of 900 pounds or less
- width of 50 inches or less
- has a seat designed to be straddled
- travels on 3 or more low-pressure or non-pneumatic tires

What Can't be Registered as an All-Terrain Vehicle?

The following do not meet legal ATV specifications:

- a vehicle with tracks, skis or a combination thereof
- machines that can legally be registered as UTVs
- 6-8 wheel amphibious vehicles
- a golf cart *(p. 32)**
- a go cart
- an off-road motorcycle
- anything outside the ATV specifications listed above
- a homemade or non-commercially manufactured machine

**See "Definitions"*

What can be Registered as an Utility Terrain Vehicle?

According to law a UTV must meet all of the following specifications:

- commercially designed and manufactured
- four or more low pressure tires or non-pneumatic tires
- dry weight less than 2,000 lbs
- cargo box
- steering wheel
- tail light
- brake light
- two headlights
- max width of 65 inches
- seat belts for each occupant
- non-straddled seats for at least 2 people seat belts for each occupant
- roll bar or similar structural system or device

Polaris Ranger

Other Vehicles Qualifying as UTVs:

- Any machines that would otherwise meet the ATV specifications (see "What Can be Registered as an ATV") except that the weight is more than 900 lbs, but less than 2,000 lbs.
- an example of this type of machine is the Polaris Big Boss, six wheeler.

Polaris Big Boss

What Cannot be Registered as a Utility-Terrain Vehicle?

The following devices do not meet the UTV or ATV definition and cannot be registered:

- A motor-driven device that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards
- a dune buggy
- a vehicle with tracks, skis or a combination thereof
- a homemade or non-commercially manufactured machine
- a golf cart *(p. 32)**
- vehicles that meet the legal definition of a low speed vehicle *(p. 33)**
- a mini-truck *(p. 34)**

**See "Definitions"*

Registration Requirements

Unless specifically exempt, **ALL** ATVs and UTVs operated in Wisconsin must:

1. display current Wisconsin registration decals, or
2. have a validated registration receipt with the operator, or
3. have a validated registration renewal receipt.

Exception: ATVs/UTVs displaying valid trail passes. Operators should carry all necessary registration cards and paperwork with them for display to a law enforcement officer upon request.

Display—Unless you are exempt from registration, your machine must display current registration decals. The decals must be displayed on both sides of the machine, in a position which is forward of the operator and easily seen.

Registration Options

NEW! Free Registration Weekend

Beginning in 2013, all ATVs and UTVs are exempt from registration and trail pass requirements during the first full weekend in June. All other laws apply.

- **Public Use**—Valid for legal operation on public trails, road routes frozen waterways and private property. Not valid for agricultural use. Valid for up to 2 years, beginning April 1st and expiring two years later on March 31st. Machines registered for Public Use are required to display their registration ID number on a rear plate *(see "Registration ID Plate Requirements")*.
- **Private Use, Agricultural**—Allows private registration for agricultural use if the machine is used for an agricultural purpose. Agricultural purpose includes a purpose related to the transportation of farm implements, equipment, supplies, or products on a farm or between farms. It is valid during operation on public roads for agricultural purposes, but is not valid for operation on public, frozen waterways or public lands open to ATVs/UTVs. Owners may dual register their machines for public use also. This type of registration remains valid until ownership is transferred.
- **Private Use, Non-Agricultural**—For use exclusively on private property (used on land owned by the applicant or an immediate family member). Remains valid until ownership is transferred.
- **Municipal & Government Use**—Used for state, county, city and village owned ATVs and UTVs. Machines registered for public use are required to display their registration ID number on a rear plate *(see "Registration ID Plate Requirements")*. Note: Government owned machines clearly displaying the name of the owner are exempt from displaying registration decals and an ID plate.

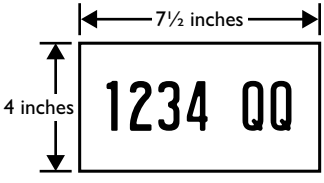
Registration Options

License Plate Requirement

All UTVs and ATVs required to register for ***Public Use*** shall have a plate attached to the rear of the vehicle. Private and Private-Agricultural registrations do not require display of a plate. The plate may be constructed by the owner or commercially purchased. Plate specifications must be:

- minimum of 4 inches in height and a minimum of 7 1/2 inches in width.
- The plate shall be white in color and shall display, in black letters/ numbers, the four- number and two-letter registration ID number for the all-terrain vehicle or utility terrain vehicle issued by the department.
- The registration ID numbers shall be a minimum of 1 1/2 inches in height, and a minimum of a 3/16-inch stroke (width). The plate may be made from any type of material, but must be visible and legible at all times.

The person required to register the all-terrain vehicle or utility terrain vehicle shall maintain the plate in legible condition. In addition to the plate, Public Use registration decals must be affixed to each side of the vehicle in a place that is forward of the operator and clearly visible. The minimum 4-inch by 7 ½- inch area must be white and must only contain the required registration ID characters. Plates may be larger than the minimum size listed and the area outside the minimum area may contain other graphics or colors. The registration ID numbers are located on the registration decals and registration certificate card.



White plate: 4" H x 7½" W
Black Lettering: 1½" H x 3/16" stroke (thickness)

Non-Resident Registration Options

- All Non-Resident machines operated in Wisconsin are required to be registered in Wisconsin unless they display a current Non-Resident Trail Pass. Registration ID Plates are not required.
- Trail Passes are available at most license vendors and vehicle registration agents. License vendors can be found by going to dnr.wi.gov and searching key word "sales location." Trail passes must be displayed in a highly visible location on the forward half of your ATV.

Non-Resident Trail Pass Options

- All Non-Resident ATVs/UTVs operated in Wisconsin and that do not display Wisconsin Public Use registration are required to display a valid, non-resident trail pass.
- Annual Non-Resident Trail Passes are valid until March 31st.
- NEW! Five day trail passes are also available.
- Trail Passes must be attached to the machine by its own adhesive and placed in a highly visible location forward of the operator.
- ATVs/UTVs displaying valid trail passes are not required to display registration ID plates.
- Trail passes must be clearly displayed in a location forward of the operator. The passes need to be visible to law enforcement.

Registration Exemptions:

- ATVs/UTVs displaying a valid trail pass are exempt from registration.
- ATVs/UTVs present in this state for less than 15 days, if used exclusively as part of an advertisement being made for the manufacturer of the ATV or UTV, are exempt from registration and trail pass requirements.
- ATVs/UTVs owned by government agencies and clearly displaying the name of the owner on the outside of the vehicle are exempt from registration.
- ATVs/UTVs used exclusively for racing on a raceway facility.

How do I Register my ATV/UTV?

Visit:* dnr.wi.gov *and search keyword "ATV registration"

There are three ways to complete an original, transfer, or renewal registration, or to request replacement decals and/or certificate cards:

- **Online** – The DNR site provides a secure, easy and convenient method to register your recreational vehicle. Online registration allows you to complete your registration transactions for the machine you currently own, or to register recently purchased machines. The online site provides a Temporary Operating Receipt that you may use to ride your machine prior to receiving the registration decals in the mail.
- **Agents** - Locate an agent near you to complete your registration needs. registration agents can process ATV/UTV registrations (renewals, transfers, originals, and print replacement decals.) Registration agents can provide you with the certificate and decals for an additional fee. For a complete list of Vehicle Registration Agents and DNR offices visit the DNR website *dnr.wi.gov,* and search keyword "license agent".

How do I Register my ATV/UTV?

- **By Mail** – Complete the ATV/UTV Registration Application *(Form 9400-376)*, save a copy, and mail the original application and appropriate fees to the address provided on the form. The form is available online or by calling **1-888-936-7463**. To legally operate the machine, the registration decals and certificate must be received and displayed as required or the customer must obtain a validated receipt from a Registration Agent Service Center.
- **ATV/UTV Purchased from a Wisconsin Dealer** – At the time of the sale, the Wisconsin dealer will complete and submit a registration application. You must carry your copy of the application form signed by the dealer or a validated receipt while operating the machine until your registration decals and certificate arrive in the mail. If the Wisconsin Dealer is also an authorized Vehicle Registration Agent, they may provide you with the certificate and decals for an additional fee.

Late Fee: *There is a $5.00 late fee charged for renewing your ATV/UTV registration after your current registration decal has expired.*

- **ATV/UTV Purchased from a Private Party or Out-of-State Dealer**—Choose one of the registration options on the previous page to complete the registration. You can obtain your decals and registration from a Registration Agent.

Transfer of ownership

- **ATVs/UTVs Already Registered in Wisconsin**—Choose one of the registration methods on the previous page to apply for transfer of ownership within 10 days of purchase. If the previous owner's registration is not current, you must apply for transfer of ownership and renew the registration before operation. You must carry your receipt while operating until your registration card and decals arrive in the mail. Transfer fee: $5, Renewal fee: $30.
- **ATVs/UTVs Not Previously Registered in Wisconsin**—Choose one of the registration options on the previous page to apply for original Wisconsin registration prior to operation. You must carry your receipt while operating until your registration card and decals arrive in the mail.

Lost or destroyed registrations—Choose one of the registration options above to apply for a replacement certificate card or expiration decal.

Change of address—Within 15 days of changing your address, you must notify the DNR in writing, stating your new address and the certificate number for the machine you own. This process is important to complete so that you receive a registration renewal notification by mail. You can also change your address by going to the boat-ATV-UTV-snowmobile webpage. Add your e-mail address and you will receive renewal notifications for all your recreational vehicles.

General Age & Safety Certificate Requirements

ATVs and UTVs can be potentially dangerous. They weigh up to 2,000 lbs and often times capable of reaching high speeds. The use of these machines by children should be highly controlled; use of safety equipment such as helmets and safety belts should be the norm. Crashes, injuries and deaths can happen in a split second. Close adult supervision is recommended to ensure that children are operating these machine safely and properly at all times.

A state motor vehicle driver's license is not required to operate an ATV or UTV in Wisconsin.

All-Terrain Vehicles

All ATV operators at least age 12 and born on or after January 1, 1988 must possess a valid ATV safety certificate issued by this state or any other state or province. Operators must be in possession of this certificate while operating in areas open to the public such as trails, routes and frozen waterways and display it to a law enforcement officer upon request. Certified operators may transport other passengers. ATV Safety Institute (ASI) certficates are not valid in Wisconsin.

Safety Certificate Exceptions:

- No safety certificate is required while operating on private property owned by the operator's immediate family *(p. 32)**.
- No safety certificate is required for children under the age of 12, while operating on other private property with permission if they are accompanied by a parent, guardian or *(p. 32)**.
- No safety certificate is required for children under the age of 12, while operating a small ATV*(p. 35)** on a public ATV trail, if they are accompanied by a designated adult *(p. 32)**. No roadway or ATV Route* operation is allowed, even to cross. Small ATVs* may be towed with the key off or otherwise operated by an adult while on roadways.

UTVs are not included with this exception.

- No safety certificate is required while operating an ATV or UTV during a demonstration event* on a closed course. All operators under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a designated adult.

New! ATV Supervision Requirement

All children age 12-15 must be accompanied *(p. 32)** by an adult while operating on a designated ATV Route, regardless if they possess an ATV Safety Certificate. Exceptions: Legal crossing and operation for agricultural purposes *(p. 32)*.*

* See *"Definitions"*

General Age & Safety Certificate Requirements

Utility Terrain Vehicles

All UTV operators at least age 16 and born on or after January 1, 1988 must possess a valid ATV safety certificate issued by this state or any other state or province. Operators must be in possession of this certificate while operating in areas open to the public such as trails, routes and frozen waterways and display it to a law enforcement officer upon request. Certified operators may transport other passengers. ATV Safety Institute (ASI) and Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROVHA) certificates are not valid in Wisconsin.

Safety Certificate Exceptions:

- No safety certificate is required while operating on private property under the management and control of the operator's immediate family *(p. 32)**.
- No safety certificate is required for children under age 12 while operating on other private property with permission if they are accompanied by a designated adult *(p. 32)**.
- No safety certificate is required for children under the age of 16 while operating for agricultural purposes* if supervised by an adult.
- No safety certificate is required while operating a UTV during a demonstration event* on a closed course. All operators under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a designated adult.

ATV Safety Certification may be obtained by successfully completing a DNR sponsored ATV safety course.

ATV Safety Certification Courses

- Safety certification is obtained by completing a classroom course or an internet course. Internet courses are conducted by two vendors: *www.atvcourse.com* and *www.offroad-ed.com*.
- Prior to Enrolling in a Safety Class you must obtain your own, individual DNR Customer ID number. DNR Customer ID numbers are also needed to purchase hunting and fishing licenses and can be found printed on all licenses.

1. You may quickly obtain an ID number by calling **1-888-936-7463** or visiting a DNR Service Center, be sure to double-check if you have been assigned one already.
2. This nine-digit number must be assigned to you by the DNR.
3. It must be specifically assigned, one person cannot use another person's number or you will not receive your certificate.

* *see "Definitions"*

Agricultural Use

"Agricultural purpose" means a purpose related to the transportation of farm implements, equipment, supplies, or products on a farm or between farms. Operation between a dwelling and a farm or piece of non-agricultural property does not meet this definition unless the dwelling is on the same piece of property as the farm.

The following laws apply specifically to ATVs/UTVs legally registered for "Private - Agriculture", displaying the corresponding registration decal stickers and while being legally used for an "agricultural purpose".

- ATV/UTV operators may operate on roadways while transporting farm implements, equipment, supplies, or products on a farm or between farms in the following manner:
  - ◊ at the extreme right side of the roadway, except for left turns. - with headlight(s) and taillight(s) activated and visible.
  - ◊ obeying the roadway speed limit.
- Helmets are not required for agricultural use.
- ATV operators age 12 and older may operate on roadways if they possess a valid ATV Safety Certificate.
- ATV operators under age 12 may not operate on roadways.
- ATV operators under age 12 may operate on private lands if they are under the supervision of an adult.
- UTV operators under the age of 16 may operate on private lands if they are under the supervision of an adult.
- UTV operators age 16 and born on or after January 1, 1988 may operate on roadways if they possess an ATV Safety Certificate
- No safety certificate is required while operating on property under the management and control of their immediate family.

Helmet Requirements

We need your help! Each year the majority of all ATV/UTV deaths in Wisconsin involve operators that were not wearing a helmet. Many of these victims may have survived their injuries had they only been wearing a helmet. Please set a good example for children and others by always wearing a helmet whether you're legally required to or not.

WEAR IT WISCONSIN!

All ATV/UTV operators under the age of 18 are required to wear a minimum DOT standard ATV or motorcycle helmet. Bicycle helmets do not meet this requirement.

Helmet Requirements

Helmet Exceptions:
Helmets are not required in the following situations:

- while operating on lands under the management and control of your immediate family *(p. 32)**
- while operating for agricultural purposes *(p. 32)**
- while operating for the purpose of hunting and fishing.
- if the operator is age 18 and older.

Helmets for Passengers:
If circumstances would require you to wear a helmet as the operator then you, as a passenger, must wear a helmet. For example, a passenger riding on an ATV on land NOT under the management and control of their immediate family *(p. 32)** would be required to wear a helmet."
* *See "Definitions"*

Alcohol and Drugs

- It is illegal to operate an ATV/UTV under the influence of alcohol or other drugs while on any property that is open to the public (generally this means trails, routes, lakes/rivers or corridors). Being under the influence is a condition in which a person's ability to operate an ATV/UTV is impaired due to the consumption of drugs and/or alcoholic beverages to the extent that the person's decision making ability is negatively affected as well as their balance and reaction time.
- **No person may operate an ATV/UTV with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08% or more. In addition, a person can be also be arrested for operating under the influence with a BAC that is under .08%.**
- **No person may operate an ATV/UTV with any detectable amount of a restricted controlled substance in their blood.**

Don't drink and ride. This can lead to crashes, injuries and death. Practice "Zero Alcohol" which is a personal choice to wait until you are done riding for the day before consuming any alcoholic beverages, it's the smart choice!

- **Implied Consent law**—You are required to provide a sample of your breath, blood or urine if an officer has probable cause to believe you are operating an ATV/UTV under the influence. By operating an ATV/UTV on areas open to the public you have automatically consented to provide a sample of your breath, blood or urine to an officer who requests the test. If you refuse to provide a breath, blood or urine sample, you will be charged with an additional violation.
- **Absolute Sobriety**—ATV/UTV operators may not have any amount alcohol in their system if they are under the age of 21.

Public Roadway/Highway Use

- Do not assume that you can ride on or next to roads (ditches) the same way snowmobilers do. These general allowances do not exist for ATV/UTV operation.
- Operation on and around public roads is restricted and in most cases illegal.
- There is no residential access allowance that permits you to ride on a roadway from a dwelling to the nearest trail or route. You will need to haul your machine to the nearest legal access point.

You May Operate on Roadways in the Following Situations:

- For agricultural purposes (see *"Agricultural Use" on p. 14*)
- On an officially designated and signed ATV Routes

NOTE: *Local officials may close ATV Routes specifically to UTVs, in which case those roads must be signed accordingly.*

Watch for this sign on roadways and trails.

On roads not seasonally maintained for roadway use, during the time in which no maintenance occurs and the road hasn't been closed to ATV/UTV use.

- To cross a bridge, culvert or railroad right-of-way when operating on a designated and marked ATV/UTV trail, ATV Route or private property with permission if you:
  - ◊ Determine the location is safe to cross
  - ◊ Come to a complete stop. Yield to all motor vehicles and pedestrians.
- To cross a roadway while operating on a designated and marked ATV trail or private property with permission if you:
  - ◊ Cross in the most direct manner possible
  - ◊ Come to a complete stop. Yield to all motor vehicles and pedestrians.

Additional Roadway Restrictions

Check with local authorities regarding any locally enacted ATV/UTV ordinances which may be more restrictive than state law.

When legally operating on a roadway:**

- Operate at the extreme right side of the roadway surface.
- Left turns can be made from any part of the roadway surface as long as it's safe.
- You must operate single file.
- You must have your head lamps and tail lamps on.

New! All children age 12-15 must be accompanied *(p. 32)** by an adult while operating on a designated ATV Route, regardless if they possess an ATV Safety Certificate.

Exceptions: Legal crossing and operation for agricultural purposes.

* *See "Definitions"*

** *See "Agricultural Use" on p. 14 & "Public Roadway/Highway Use" on p. 16*

Unimproved Right-of-Way/Ditch Use

Operation on the unimproved right-of-way or ditch, outside the regular traveled portion of the road, is highly restricted and in most cases illegal. Many right-of-ways or ditch lines are privately owned, operation on private property without permission is trespassing.

You May Operate on Unimproved Right-of-Ways in the Following Situations:

- **Town Roads** (examples: Maple Road, Hanson Lane, etc.)
  - ◊ on designated and signed ATV trails or routes or on private property with permission.
- **County Highways** (Highway C, Highway TT, etc.)
  - ◊ on designated and signed ATV trails or routes or on private property with permission. If operating on a trail or running parallel to the highway, you must be at least 10 feet from the roadway portion of the highway.
- **State Highway**—(Highway 8, Highway 141, etc.)—on designated and signed ATV trails or routes or on private property with permission. If operating on a trail or route running parallel to the highway, you must be at least 10 feet from the roadway portion of the highway.
- **Interstate Highway**—(I-90, I-41, I-39, etc.)—no operation allowed.

When legally operating alongside roadways during the hours of darkness, operation must be in the same direction as motor vehicle traffic in the nearest lane unless the trail or route is located at least 40 feet from the roadway or separated by a headlight barrier.

During daylight hours, you may travel in either direction regardless of the flow of motor vehicle traffic.

Where Can I Ride My ATV?

Most off-road trail riding opportunities are located on County owned land, with some also found on State and Federal lands. In most instances, ATV/UTV riding is strictly restricted to designated and marked ATV trails and routes only. Stay on the trails and routes, riding in illegal areas can close and/or restrict riding opportunities for everyone. Check with local County, State and Federal offices for special regulations.

ATV/UTV Trail Information Sources:

- County Forestry Offices
- DNR website *dnr.wi.gov,* search keyword "ATV"
- U.S. Forest Service *fs.fed.gov* website, search "Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest" and "Motor Vehicle Use Map"
- Dept. of Tourism *travelwisconsin.com* search keyword "ATV"
- Wisconsin ATV Association *watva.org*
- Area Chamber of Commerce

ATV Trails

All ATV trails are generally open to UTV unless specifically signed as closed to UTVs. Check with local authorities.

- An ATV trail is an off-road corridor identified by small (6"x6") brown signs with the white silhouette of an ATV and orange blazer (diamond) signs. Be careful as snowmobile trails also use the orange blazer to mark the pathway of a trail. If the brown and white ATV sign is not present, then you are not allowed to ride an ATV on that trail.
- A trail is different than a route and will generally never be on a road or in a ditch. You are only likely to be on a road involving a trail when you cross the road at marked intersections. The county, town, city or village may designate corridors on land it controls to be used as ATV trails.
- Some trails may be designated as multiple use trails. On these trails, you could encounter other traffic such as horses, motorcycles, ATVs, UTVs and bicyclists.

Counties, towns, cities or villages may designate specific hours or times of the year when the trail is open or closed.

Check locally for any special restrictions.

ATV Routes

An ATV Route is a public roadway that is designated as being open to legal ATV/UTV use by local units of government. ATV Routes must be designated through passage of a local ordinance and posted with ATV Route (24"x 18") green signs with the white silhouette of an ATV along with appropriate directional arrows. All roads designated as ATV Routes must be signed at the beginning and end of a route and at such intervals that enable riders to follow the route. ATV Route ordinances must be filed with any law enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction over the roadway.

Official copies of all ATV Route ordinances must be filed with the Department of Natural Resources at:

WI DNR
ATV Safety Program - LE/8
101 South Webster Street
Madison, WI 53707-7921

There is no residential access allowance that permits you to ride on a roadway from a dwelling to the nearest trail or route. You will need to haul your machine to the nearest legal access point.

For a complete list of roadways designated as ATV Routes, contact the local township office and/or County Highway Department.

Trail Signs

Trail and Route signs are standardized across Wisconsin.

Be familiar with them before your ride. When a county, city, village or town creates a route, ATV route signs must be erected along with directional arrow(s), at the beginning of an all-terrain vehicle route and at locations and intervals necessary to enable all-terrain vehicle operators to follow the route. Only individuals authorized by a local municipality may post, remove or alter ATV signs. If you see a signing problem, contact the local municipality and/or ATV club representative immediately.

Trail Turns

Turn Ahead

T Intersection

Barrier

ATV Trail Sign

No ATVS

S Curve

Route Arrow

Diamond trail blazer

This type of sign is also used for snowmobile trails in order for you to use a trail that is identified with this blazer, the trail must also be marked with the brown and white ATV Trail Sign.

Speed Limits/Restrictions

You must slow your ATV/UTV to 10 mph or less:

- When you are riding within 100 feet of a person who is not on a motorized vehicle. This includes, but is not limited to slowing for anglers, hikers, bicyclists, joggers, horses, etc. as well as for other
- ATV/UTV operators standing along the trail.
- When you are riding within 100 feet of an ice fishing shanty while on the ice.
- When you are riding within 150 feet of a home or dwelling.
- You must obey the posted trail speed limits at all times.

Exception: The 10 mph speed limit doesn't apply while operating on legal ATV Road Routes, unless enacted by local ordinance.

◊ *When operating on or along roadways you cannot exceed the posted roadway speed limits for motor vehicle traffic unless there is a specific speed limit posted for ATVs/UTVs.*

Other ATV/UTV Restrictions

- You must obey all regulatory signs, such as stop signs, yield signs and speed limit signs.
- You can't operate at speeds that are unreasonable or improper.
- You can't operate in a careless manner so that it endangers a person or property.
- You can't operate on public property in areas where such operation is prohibited by signage and/or local rule or law.
- You can't operate on private property without the permission of the
- owner or lessee. Failure to post the property does not give you the authority to ride there.

You can't allow a person to operate if they are:

- Prohibited by law.
- Has not obtained the required safety certificate (or underage).
- Incapable of operating because they are physically or mentally unable to exercise physical control over the speed or direction of the machine.
- Under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

You must stop your machine after being requested or signaled to do so by a law enforcement officer.

Operation On and Around Waterways

You cannot operate an ATV/UTV in any navigable water, or on the exposed bed of any navigable water (including exposed lakebeds in front of your property) except:

- To cross a stream by use of a bridge, culvert, ford or similar structure provided the crossing is in the most direct manner practical.
- To launch or load a boat, canoe, or other watercraft in the most direct manner practical.
- To access the frozen surfaces of any navigable waters provided the crossing or access is in the most direct manner practical.

Machines operating on public, frozen waterways must display either valid Public Use Registration decals or a valid trail pass.

"Bed of a navigable water*" means all of the area below the ordinary high water mark of a lake or stream. (During low-water periods, there may be several feet or more of exposed lake or streambed that is closed to ATV and other vehicular traffic

ATV/UTV Equipment Requirements

Your ATV must be equipped with at least a single white headlamp (two for UTVs) and a red tail lamp that must be activated during the hours of darkness or while operating on or along a roadway, even when crossing roads. It is recommended that you leave your lights on at all times for safety.

- Colored headlamp covers, lens covers or colored headlamp bulbs, are not legal to use when you are riding during the hours of darkness or while operating on or along a roadway, even when crossing roads. Under most circumstances you cannot use colored headlamp covers or bulbs.
- Your headlamp(s) must be able to illuminate any person or object at a distance of 200 feet in front of your machine.

Other auxilary lighting is allowed as long as it doesn't interfere with legal lighting requirements. Red and blue lighting identifies emergency or law enforcement vehicles.

Your machine must be equipped with a tail lamp that is visible for 500 feet to the rear during the hours of darkness.

Your machine must be equipped with at least one brake, operated either by hand or by foot.

All UTV passengers must have their seatbelts fastened at all times.

It is illegal for a passenger to ride in or on any part of a UTV that is not originally designed or intended by the manufacturer to be used by passengers. It is not legal to operate with passengers in any aftermarket seating placed in the cargo area of a UTV.

Exhaust and Noise Restrictions

- Your machine must be equipped with a function muffler that prevents unusual or excessive noises.
- No person may manufacture, sell, rent or operate an ATV/UTV in such a manner that noise emitted from the machine is louder than 96 decibels when measured on the "A" scale; measured in the manner prescribed in the reaffirmed 1998–07, Society of Automotive Engineers Standard J1287, entitled Measurement of Exhaust Sound Levels of Stationary Motorcycles.
- No one shall deny or refuse an inspection or testing of an ATV/UTV by any law enforcement officer who reasonably suspects a violation of an equipment requirement.
- Your machine must be equipped with a spark arrester at all times, even during the winter.

No person may manufacture, sell, rent or operate an ATV/UTV that is louder than 96 decibels.

Excessive or unusually loud machines are illegal and hurt Wisconsin's trail system. Do not increase your exhaust noise or operate with your exhaust system in excess of normal operation. Excessive noise threatens riding opportunities statewide.

Dealer/Renter Requirements

Dealer registration

ATV/UTV manufacturers, dealers, distributors, renters or any combination thereof and engaged in business in this state must register with the DNR and obtain a commercial certificate. The DNR will issue you three commercial decals. The decals must be attached to a plate (of your own design) that is clearly displayed and mounted to each machine that you lease, rent, offer for sale or otherwise allow to be operated as part of your business. Additional decals can be purchased from the DNR. **A dealer cannot accept a machine for trade-in unless the ATV/UTV is currently registered either with the DNR or another state.** Dealers cannot operate on validated applications, the machines can only be operated legally when the commercial decal is displayed. Commercial registrations expire every two years. Commercial Fee: $90. Additional Decal Fee: $30

Rental Businesses

- You can't rent or lease ATVs/UTVs to first-time (new) operators unless you provide the person instruction on how to operate it.
- You can't rent or lease a machine to a person under 16.
- You can't rent or lease a machine to anyone until you verify that all riders and operators under 18 have a helmet to use.
- All rental businesses must have clean, usable helmets available for rent to any renter under 18 or any person under 18 who will be on the rented ATV/UTV.

Accidents and Crashes

If you are involved in a crash, the first thing to do is ensure you are okay and not going to be involved in another crash from oncoming traffic. You must provide help to anyone else who was involved.

Any crash that results in an injury requiring treatment by a physician or a fatal incident must be reported as soon as possible to a Conservation Warden or other law enforcement officer. You must file a written report of the incident within 10 days to the DNR. Official DNR, *Operator Crash Report forms* can be obtained by visiting the DNR website *dnr.wi.gov*, a DNR Service Center or sheriff 's office.

ATV/UTV Sanctioned Races

- During races, machines are not exempt from the requirements to be equipped with a spark arrester and a functioning muffler which restricts noise to 96 decibels or less.
- Machines are exempt from registration only if they are used exclusively for racing at a racing facility.
- During a race, parade, derby or exhibition you may ride on certain roads only if the road is blocked off by the county, town, city or village having jurisdiction. In addition:
  - ◊ No state trunk highway or connecting highway may be blocked off for an ATV/UTV event.
  - ◊ The county, town, city or village blocking the road(s) must notify the local police department and the county sheriff at least one week in advance.
- If you are the sponsor conducting a sanctioned race or derby on a raceway facility, you must:
  - ◊ Make provisions to keep spectators at least 100 feet away from race competitors on the frozen surfaces of public waters.
  - ◊ Give notice of the race or derby to the local Conservation Warden or law enforcement agency having jurisdiction.
- Children under the age of 12 cannot compete in races. There is no provision that allows a child of this age to race an ATV/UTV at a sanctioned event.
- A sanctioned race or derby means a competitive event sponsored by a local unit of government, chamber of commerce, an ATV/UTV club, promoter, or similar organization.
- A raceway facility means an area, including a marked warm-up and test- ing area, specifically designated by a sponsor for the purpose of conducting a sanctioned race or derby for which any required local permits have been obtained.

ATVs/UTVs and Hunting, Fishing or Trapping

ATVs/UTVs can be useful while hunting, fishing or trapping. Remember that off-trail/off-road operation is generally not allowed on publicly owned lands, even to retrieve game. Never enter areas that have been gated, cabled, posted or otherwise restrict ATV/UTV or motor vehicle use. Check with the appropriate property owner/manager for special regulations and/or permits.

Other restrictions:

- All firearms (excluding handguns) must be unloaded when in or on any vehicle, except that a loaded firearm may be placed on, but not in, a vehicle which is stationary.
- All firearms, bows, and crossbows must be unloaded when in or on any motor driven boat while the motor is running.
- It is illegal to place, possess, or transport a cocked crossbow in or on a motorized vehicle unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a case.
- It is illegal to load a firearm other than a handgun while it is in a vehicle or to discharge any firearm, including handguns, in or from any moving or stationary vehicle except for certain disabled hunters with proper permits.
- Qualified disabled hunters with the permit authority to shoot from a stationary vehicle must have all firearms (other than handguns) unloaded while the vehicle is in motion.
- It is illegal to drive, pursue or harass any wild animal.

Disabled Operators

If you hold a Class A or Class B disabled hunting permit, you may operate an ATV/UTV on the roadway portion of a highway (not an interstate) if you are traveling for the purposes of hunting that are allowed by the permit. All other ATV/UTV safety certificate and age restrictions apply.

No other special regulations exist for disabled ATV/UTV operators.

Liability of Landowners—895.52 Wisconsin Statutes

Landowners who allow ATV/UTV trails to cross their property are not required to keep the premises safe for recreational activities, to inspect the property, or to give warning of an unsafe condition, use, or activity on the property. They are generally held free of liability but there are a few requirements.

Trails At Risk From Invasive Species

INVASIVE SPECIES are taking over our parks and natural areas making it difficult to enjoy nature.

You can play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasive species.

What ATV/UTV Users Need to Know About Invasives

- Invasive species are nonnative plants, animals, and diseases that can cause harm to the economy, environment, and human health.
- Invasive plants tend to reproduce and grow quickly making trails impassable. They affect wildlife shelter and food sources by reducing native plant populations which also leads to soil erosion.
- Invasive insects and diseases can kill trees.

What Does This Have to do With ATV/UTV Users?

- Invasive plant seeds, insects, and diseases can be moved on equipment, such as mud on tires or seeds with burs on clothes and shoes.
- Concerns about spreading invasive species may endanger access to lands and trails in the future.

How Can ATV/UTV Users Help?

- Learn to recognize invasive species.
- Wear clothing and footwear that do not attract seeds.
- Inspect and clean hair, clothing, shoes, and gear before and after recreating.
- Clean your ATV/UTV before and after use. Pay special attention to the tires, wheel wells and undercarriage.
- Properly dispose of soil, seeds, or plant parts from cleaning.
- Minimize soil disturbance; stay on designated trails, roads, and other developed areas.

Avoid areas that are infested with invasive species: "When in doubt, stay out!"

Enforcement, Penalties and Common Violations

Any Conservation Warden, officer of the state patrol or inspector, county sheriff or municipal peace officer may enforce ATV/UTV laws.

The fines for violating these laws range from $150—$2,000. You could also face up to one year in jail. Most of the ATV/UTV laws are safety related. Violating these laws oftentimes endangers others and reflects negatively on the entire ATV/UTV community.

Top Ten Violations (not in order)

Operate Without Valid Registration
Operate in a Careless Manner
Operate While Intoxicated
Operate on Private or Public Property Without Permission
Illegal Operation on or Near Highways
ATV Equipment Violations
Operate in a Careless Manner
Owner Permitting Operation by Unauthorized Person
Operate/Ride ATV Without Head Gear
Operate Without a Valid Safety Certificate/Fail to Carry

Help Prevent Violations

- Always conduct a pre-ride inspection to ensure your equipment is operating properly.
- Review the local, state and federal regulations of the area in where you plan on riding and ask questions if you are unsure of a regulation.
- Double-check to make sure you are carrying all your required paperwork.
- Slow down, ride sober and always wear a helmet.
- Ride only with safe, responsible and courteous operators
- Take an ATV Safety Course.

Motor Vehicle Trailer Information

Title

If the combined weight of an ATV/UTV, trailer and accessories is over 3,000 pounds, you will need to title the trailer with the Wisconsin DOT and equip the trailer with brakes.

Trailer lighting

You cannot tow a trailer with a motor vehicle during the hours of darkness unless it displays the lighting equipment as prescribed in Section 347 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Safety chains

Safety chains are required on all towed vehicles and trailers. For further information contact the Wisconsin DOT.

ATV/UTV Trailer Information

There are no specific regulations regarding towing trailers behind ATVs/UTVs. Trailers may not interfere with the legal lighting requirement for ATVs/UTVs. Towing trailers that create hazardous conditions for other operators and/or cause a crash may be result in the operator being found negligent.

Motorcycle Information

Motorcycle use is generally not permitted on ATV/UTV trails. Some public, single-track trail exists in certain counties, while other county, state and federal lands may permit limited motorcycle use on certain trails and roads. Contact the Wisconsin Off-Highway Motorcycle Association for additional information (*www.wohma.com*).

Winter ATV/UTV Use

Snowmobile trails are not automatically open to ATV/UTV use. In many cases it is illegal to operate on a snowmobile trail. Violating this law threatens current and future opportunities to have joint use trails. Check locally for special ATV/UTV allowances on county snowmobile trails.

- You must slow to 10 MPH or less when within 100 feet of an ice fishing shanty (ice shack) or person not on a snowmobile, ATV or other motorized vehicle.
- ATVs/UTVs modified with aftermarket tracks and or skis are not considered snowmobiles and cannot be registered or used as such. They may be operated on frozen waterways and private property with permission.
- Check with local law enforcement agencies, DNR offices or bait shops daily to get the most current information on ice conditions. No one expects to break through the ice, so be prepared by carrying the following equipment with you:

- Life preserver or	- Length of rope
- Float coat	- Ice picks
- Ice creepers	- Cell phone

Floatation Requirements:

Certain local units of government, such as Dane County, may have ordinances regarding the installation of floats on ATVs/UTVs as well as a permit. Please check locally for any such special requirements.

ATVs/UTVs and Snow Removal

A person may operate an ATV with a snow removal device attached, for snow removal purposes and under the following restrictions:

- At a speed not to exceed 5 mph while on a public sidewalk
- At a speed not to exceed 15 mph while on or adjacent to a roadway
- Operation is allowed on all roadways where the motor vehicle speed limit is 45 mph or less
- Operation shall be restricted to the the far right hand side of the road
- Operation is also allowed on roads that are legal and open ATV Routes
- Operators must be 16 years or older and if born on or after January 1, 1988 must also possess a valid ATV Safety Certificate.
- Operation is only allowed between October 1 and April 30 for the purpose of removing snow
- Operators may not travel at a distance greater than 2 miles from
- their original starting orloading point
- Machines must display one or more illuminated, yellow lights that are flashing or rotating and visible for 360 degrees

Other Provisions:

- A city, village, or town may enact an ordinance authorizing the operation of ATVs with snow removal devices (that are operating for snow removal purposes) on roads where the speed limit is greater than 45 mph, if the road is located within the territorial boundaries of that city, village, or town; regardless of who has jurisdiction over the particular roadway.
- ATVs/UTVs are required to have their headlamps on at all times while operating on any road. Headlamps must be able to illuminate an object at least 200 feet away. Tail lights must be visible from at least 500 feet away during the hours of darkness. Operators must be certain that their snow removal equipment does not interfere with these legal lighting requirements.
- ATVs/UTVs must have current Public Use Registration while operating on public roadways, public road right of ways or on public sidewalks.
- Helmets are required for all operator's under age 18, except while operating on lands under the ownership or management of their immediate family *(p. 32)**.

* See "Definitions"

Basic Safety Code

- Do not consume alcohol or take drugs prior to or during operation.
- Use a proper size ATV helmet, goggles, or visor that is at minimum, DOT certified.
- Slow down and don't cut to the inside of the trail at corners, it's dangerous and illegal.
- If you operate your machine at night, don't override your lights.
- Follow the manufacturer's recommendation and state laws regarding safe transport of passengers on your machine.
- Familiarize yourself with the area before you ride it. Have a map, GPS or smartphone app to assist you with safely navigating the trails.
- If traveling on the ice, check with local law enforcement, DNR or bait shops for the most current ice conditions.

If you don't know the ice conditions; don't go.

- Wear a long sleeve shirt and pants, gloves and have other appropriate clothing along depending on the weather.
- Always conduct a pre-ride inspection on your machine to make sure it is operating safely and legally.
- Know the weather forecast, especially the ice and snow conditions in the area.
- Always completely read the Owner's Manual before operating your machine.
- Always use the buddy system and ride with at least one other person.
- Plan your ride and ride your plan. Leave details of your trip location(s), approximate arrival time(s), who you are riding with, etc. at your home, hotel, cabin or other location where people will be able to find it in case of an emergency. Failing to stick with the details of your plan may result in lack of timely assistance or rescue if you need it.

How Is the Wisconsin ATV/UTV Program Paid For?

You help fund the ATV/UTV program. When you register your machine or purchase a Trail Pass the fees are credited into a special account with the majority of the funds dedicated to the trail system. Other portions of the collected fees help manage law enforcement operations, the registration system, and other costs associated with running the ATV/UTV program.

In addition to the registration fees you pay, there are several other sources of revenue that are used by the ATV/UTV program.

One source of program income is derived from the state gasoline excise tax. Currently, there is a formula transfer of gasoline excise tax on 25 gallons of gasoline for every ATV/UTV registered by the end of each February. These funds are dedicated to the trails program.

Each year the Department of Natural Resources distributes the majority of the trail dollars to counties and other municipalities that participate in the ATV/UTV program through a grant process. These grants reimburse counties for the cost of trail maintenance. Grants are also awarded for infrastructure improvements such as trail or bridge rehabilitation and the development of new trails or intensive use areas.

Who is involved?

Conservation Wardens and sheriff patrols monitor ATV/UTV activities on trails, routes and corridors to ensure people are abiding by the rules. They offer riders assistance and are available to assist you with information about the trails. They also respond to crashes and search and rescue of lost and/or injured riders. You can help by respecting the rules and setting a good example for others to follow.

The Off-Road Vehicle Council was created in 1986 to help guide the Department with all matters related to ATVs/UTVs including the distribution of trail funds to counties. The Council is made up of 7 volunteers from various parts of the state. Council members offer recommendations to the Department on legislative issues, safety concerns and sponsor funding requests. In 2013, the council became Governor appointed.

Definitions

Accident – A crash involving an ATV is any accident (regardless of the number of vehicles involved) which results in a fatality or an injury that requires medical treatment by a physician.

Accompanied – Subject to continuous verbal direction or control, but not necessarily on the same machine.

Agricultural Purpose – a purpose related to the transportation of farm implements, equipment, supplies, or products on a farm or between farms. Operation between a dwelling and a farm or piece of non- agricultural property does not meet this definition unless the dwelling is on the same piece of property as the farm.

All-terrain vehicle (ATV) – a commercially designed and manufactured motor-driven device that has a weight, without fluids, of 900 pounds or less, has a width of 50 inches or less, is equipped with a seat designed to be straddled by the operator and on 3 or more low- pressure or non-pneumatic tires. See also: Small ATV.

Dealer – a person engaged in the sale of all-terrain vehicles for a profit at wholesale or retail.

Designated Adult – parent, guardian or adult designated by the parent or guardian.

DNR – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

DOT – Department of Transportation.

Golf cart – a vehicle in which the speed attainable in one mile does not exceed 20 mph on a paved, level surface, and that is designed and intended to convey one or more persons and equipment to play the game of golf in an area designated as a golf course.

Highway – All public ways, thoroughfares, and bridges on the same. It includes the entire width between the boundary lines of every way open to the use of the public as a matter of right for the purpose of vehicle traffic. Generally Federal and State Highways are designated by a number, County highways are designated by a letter or letters. Town Highways are generally designated by a name.

Hours of Darkness – The period of time from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise and all other times when there is not sufficient natural light to render clearly visible any person or vehicle on a highway at a distance of 500 feet.

Immediate Family – Persons who are related as spouses, as siblings or as parent and child.

Implement of Husbandry – A vehicle or piece of equipment or machin- ery designed for agricultural purposes, used exclusively in the conduct of agricultural operations and used principally off the highway, or a trailer-mounted bulk liquid fertilizer container.

Land Under The Management And Control Of A Person's Immediate Family – Land owned or leased by a person or a member of a person's immediate family over which the owner or lessee has management and control. This term excludes land owned or leased by an organization of which the person or a member of the person's immediate family is a member.

Low-speed Vehicle – a motor vehicle that conforms to the definition and requirements for low-speed vehicles as adopted in the federal motor vehicle safety standards for low-speed vehicles under 49 CFR 571.3 (b) and 571.500.

49 CFR 571.3(b)

Title 49: Transportation PART 571 – FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS § 571.3 Definitions.

(b.) Other definitions. As used in this chapter – Low-speed vehicle (LSV) means a motor vehicle,

1. That is 4-wheeled,
2. Whose speed attainable in 1.6 km (1 mile) is more than 32 kilometers per hour (20 miles per hours) and not more than 40 kilometers per hour (25 miles per hour) on a paved level surface, and
3. Whose GVWR [gross vehicle weight rating] is less than 1,361 kilograms (3,000 pounds).

§ 571.500 Standard No. 500; Low-speed vehicles.

S1. Scope. This standard specifies requirements for low-speed vehicles. S2. Purpose. The purpose of this standard is to ensure that low-speed vehicles operated on the public streets, roads, and highways are equipped with the minimum motor vehicle equipment appropriate for motor vehicle safety.

S3. Applicability. This standard applies to low-speed vehicles. S4. [Reserved.]

S5. Requirements.

(a) When tested in accordance with test conditions in S6 and test procedures in S7, the maximum speed attainable in 1.6 km (1 mile) by each low-speed vehicle shall not more than 40 kilometers per hour (25 miles per hour).

(b) Each low-speed vehicle shall be equipped with:

1. Headlamps,
2. Front and rear turn signal lamps,
3. Taillamps,
4. Stop lamps,
5. Reflex reflectors: one red on each side as far to the rear as practicable, and one red on the rear,

6. An exterior mirror mounted on the driver's side of the vehicle and either an exterior mirror mounted on the passenger's side of the vehicle or an interior mirror,
7. A parking brake,
8. A windshield that conforms to the Federal motor vehicle safety standard on glazing materials (49 CFR 571.205).
9. A VIN that conforms to the requirements of part 565 Vehicle Identification Number of this chapter, and
10. A Type 1 or Type 2 seat belt assembly conforming to Sec. 571.209 of this part, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 209, Seat belt assemblies, installed at each designated seating position.

Mini-truck – a motor truck, as defined in s. 340.01 (34), having a top speed of not more than 60 mph, and that is all of the following:

◊ powered by an internal combustion engine with a piston or rotor displacement of not less than 660 cubic centimeters
◊ not more than 60 inches wide
◊ not more thank 1,600 lbs in dry, unloaded weight
◊ manufactured with a locking enclosed cab and a heated interior Non-pneumatic tire - a tire that is designed by the manufacturer to meet all of the following requirements: to have a minimum width of 6 inches, to have a reinforced structure, and to not be supported by air pressure.

Operate – To exercise physical control over the speed or direction of an ATV or UTV or to physically manipulate or activate any of the controls of an ATV or UTV necessary to put it in motion.

Operator – A person who operates an ATV or UTV, who is responsible for the operation of an ATV or UTV or who is supervising the operation of an ATV or UTV.

Owner – A person who has lawful possession of an ATV or UTV by virtue of legal title or equitable interest in the machine which entitles the person to possession of it.

Private Property – Land owned or leased by an individual, group of individuals or corporation (not government owned) or lands owned by a member of the immediate family (spouse, siblings, or parent). A trail, even though crossing private property, is not considered private for the purpose of enforcement of laws, i.e., registration, OWI etc.

Raceway Facility – An area, including a marked warm-up and testing area, specifically designated by a sponsor for the purpose of conducting a sanctioned race or derby for which any required local permits have been obtained.

Renter – A person engaged in the rental or leasing of ATVs or UTVs to the public.

Definitions

Roadway – That portion of a highway between the regularly established curb line or that portion, which is improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicle travel excluding the berm or shoulder.

Route – A highway or sidewalk designated for use by ATV and/or UTV operators by the governmental agency having jurisdiction. Routes are identified at the beginning point by a sign showing the white silhouette of an ATV on a green background. White directional arrows on a green background show the continuation of the route.

Sanctioned Race or Derby – A competitive event sponsored by a county, town, city or village, by a promoter, chamber of commerce, ATV/UTV club or other similar organization.

Small All-Terrain Vehicle – An all-terrain vehicle that has 4 wheels and that has either an engine certified by the manufacturer at not more than 90 cubic centimeters or an equivalent power unit. These machines must be registered.

Snow Removal Device – an attachment designed and installed for the purpose of removing snow, such as a plow blade, blower, bucket, or brush Street – Every highway within the corporate limits of a city or village except alleys.

Town Highway – Roads constructed and maintained by the towns (generally these roads are signed with names, for example Old Town Road).

Trail – A marked corridor on public property or on private lands subject to public easement or lease, designated for use by all-terrain vehicle operators by the governmental agency having jurisdiction, but excluding roadways of highways except those roadways which are not seasonally maintained for motor vehicle traffic. Trails are identified by signs showing a white silhouette of an ATV on a brown background.

Used Exclusively on Private Property – Use of an ATV by its owner or a member of his or her immediate family, only on land owned or leased by the all-terrain vehicle owner or a member of his or her immediate family.

Utility Terrain Vehicle – means any of the following:

- A commercially designed and manufactured motor driven device that does not meet federal motor vehicle safety standards in effect on July 1, 2012, that is not a golf cart, low-speed vehicle, dune buggy, mini-truck, or tracked vehicle, that is designed to be used primarily off of a highway, and that has, and was originally manufactured with, all of the following:
  - ◊ A net weight, without fluids, of 2,000 pounds or less.
  - ◊ four or more low pressure or non-pneumatic tires.
  - ◊ A cargo box installed by the manufacturer.
  - ◊ A steering wheel.

◊ A tail light.
◊ A brake light.
◊ Two headlights.
◊ A width of not more than 65 inches.
◊ A system of seat belts, or a similar system, for restraining each occupant of the device in the event of an accident.
◊ A system of structural members designed to reduce the likelihood that an occupant would be crushed as the result of a rollover of the device.

Validated Receipt – a copy of your ATVUTV Registration Application (form 9400-376) "validated" (stamped PAID) by a DNR office authorized validation site or, if purchased from a Wisconsin dealer, a copy of the registration application signed by the dealer, showing proof that registration has been applied for and proper fee paid.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Are all snowmobile trails open for winter ATV use?

A. **No.** Only certain counties allow ATVs and/or UTVs to operate on snowmobile trails under certain conditions. Check with the County Snowmobile Coordinator to find out if ATVs/UTVs are allowed.

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Q. I can find a helmet small or light enough that my child can wear. Is it O.K. to place my child in a car seat with a bicycle helmet in a UTV?

A. **No.** The majority of the ATV/UTV safety laws were written to regulate ATV/UTV use on off-road trails. If an appropriate, legal helmet cannot be found for your child, they are most likely too young to safely transport in a UTV.

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Q. Is it legal to have a passenger on an ATV not designed for two people?

A. **Yes,** however it is not recommended. Please follow the manufacturer's recommendations and do not carry a passenger unless the ATV is specifically designed for two people.

• • • • •

Q. Can I drive my ATV or UTV on any public road if I display a slow moving vehicle sign?

A. **No.** A slow moving vehicle sign may only be used by slow moving vehicles authorized to be on the road in the first place. ATVs and UTVs may not be used on every public road. Slow moving vehicle signs are required for vehicles that usually operate at speeds less than 25 mph, usually farm machinery.

• • • • •

Q. I'm from out of state. Can I still purchase Wisconsin Public Use registration? Do I still need to purchase a non-resident trail pass?

A. **Yes,** anyone may register their machine for Wisconsin Public Use registration. Machines displaying valid Public Use registration don't have to display a non-resident trail pass.

• • • • •

Q. My machine meets most of the UTV specification, except it doesn't have a roll bar. Can I make my own roll bar so it meets legal UTV specifications?

A. **No.** Your machine must meet all the legal specifications with original manufacturer equipment.

Wisconsin DNR Offices and Registration Validation Stations

DNR Central Office – Information Center

101 S. Webster St., Madison 608-266-2621

Southeast Region

Region Headquarters
2300 N. Martin Luther King Dr., Milwaukee 414-263-8500

Plymouth Office
1155 Pilgrim Rd, Plymouth 920-892-8756

Sturtevant Office
9531 Rayne Rd., Suite 4, Sturtevant 262-884-2300

Waukesha Office
141 NW Barstow St., Rm #180, Waukesha 262-574-2100

South Central Region

Region Headquarters
3911 Fish Hatchery Rd., Fitchburg 608-275-3266

Dodgeville Office
1500 North Johns St., Dodgeville 608-935-3368

Horicon Office
N7725 Hwy. 28, Horicon 920-387-7860

Janesville Office
2514 Morse St., Janesville 608-743-4800

West Central Region

Region Headquarters
1300 W. Clairemont, Eau Claire 715-839-3700

Black River Falls Office
910 Hwy. 54E, Black River Falls 715-284-1400

LaCrosse Office
3550 Mormon Coulee Rd., LaCrosse 608-785-9000

Wisconsin Rapids Office
473 Griffith Ave., Wisconsin Rapids 715-421-7800

Baldwin Office
890 Spruce St., Baldwin 715-684-2914

Wausau Office
5301 Rib Mountain Rd., Wausau 715-359-4522

Wisconsin DNR Offices and Registration Validation Stations

Northern Region

Region Headquarters
- 810 W Maple St., Spooner 715-635-2101
- 107 Sutliff Ave., Rhinelander 715-365-8900

Woodruff Office
- 8770 Hwy. J, Woodruff 715-356-5211

Antigo Office
- 223 E. Steinfest Rd., Antigo 715-627-4317

Park Falls Office
- 875 S. 4th Ave., Park Falls 715-762-3204

Hayward Office
- 10220 N. Hwy. 27, Hayward 715-634-2688

Ladysmith Office
- N4103 Hwy. 27, Ladysmith 715-532-3911

Superior Office
- 1401 Tower Ave., Superior 715-392-7988

Ashland Office
- 2501 Golf Course Rd., Ashland 715-685-2900

Cumberland Office--1341 Second Ave, Cumberland .....
715-822-3590

Northeast Region

Region Headquarters
- 2984 Shawano Ave., Green Bay 920-662-5100

Peshtigo Office
- 101 N. Oden Rd., Peshtigo 715-582-5000

Oshkosh Office
- 62 E. County Rd. Y, Suite 700, Oshkosh 920-424-3050

Sturgeon Bay Office
- 110 S. Neenah Ave., Sturgeon Bay 920-746-2860

Website: dnr.wi.gov E-mail: csweb@wi.gov

Telephone: Toll-free **1-888-WDNRINFO (1-888-936-7463)**
answered daily from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm.

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