

Here are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about the rules.

Question: Why did Idaho Fish and Game adopt rules limiting the use of motorized vehicles by hunters?

Answer: The rules are in response to many hunters, who, over the past 10 years, requested that something be done about the increase in off-road travel, particularly by ATVs, during hunting season. Recent public surveys also show more than 80 percent support for use restrictions for hunters using OHVs. Fish and Game has the authority to regulate use of motor vehicles by hunters just as with other aids (i.e., bait, gear restrictions, dogs, etc.). Landowners, including the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Idaho Department of Lands, and private landowners, regulate vehicle use on their property.

Question: The rules affirm that the use of a “motorized vehicle” is an aid to hunting and restricts travel to “established roadways.” What does that mean?

Answer: Using a motorized vehicle to travel off established roads to and from hunting spots, to transport hunters or hunting equipment, or to hunt is considered an “aid to hunting.” The rules do not affect travel on established roads. If in doubt, stay on the road.

Question: What is an “established roadway?”

Answer: An established roadway was “established, built, maintained, approved or designated” by a landowner or agency for use by full-sized vehicles.

Question: What is considered a motorized vehicle?

Answer: Idaho statute defines a motor vehicle as any vehicle “propelled by electricity or a fuel-burning motor. This includes pickup trucks, Jeeps, SUVs, UTVs, cars, three-wheelers, four-wheelers, motorcycles, snowmobiles or other similar vehicles.

Question: Do these rules ban all use of motorized vehicles during hunting season?

Answer: No. The rules apply only to the off-road use of motorized vehicles by hunters. Other outdoor recreational activities (camping, sight-seeing, berry-picking, etc.) are not affected.

Question: As a hunter, can I use an OHV on USFS, or BLM designated trails in Big Game Units covered by the motorized vehicle rule?

Answer: Only if the use is permissible in the exceptions to the motorized vehicles rule, since trails are not open to use by full-sized vehicles.

Question: Do the new rules apply to all hunting statewide?

Answer: No. Only certain hunting units are affected, and they are listed in the hunting rules.

Question: Where can I find out which are established roads open to use by full-sized vehicles and which are trails on national forest land?

Answer: A copy of the USFS Motor Vehicle Use Map for the area you are hunting will list road, trail and other use restrictions by the USFS. This map should be used in conjunction with the current hunting rules. If you have any questions about the status of a road or trail, please call the USFS or Idaho Fish and Game.

Question: What can I do to stay out of trouble or to avoid conflicts with other hunters?

Answer: When in doubt, stay on the road. Know the vehicle use restrictions for the area you are hunting, have applicable USFS Motor Vehicle Use Maps and review the tips on the Idaho Fish and Game Website at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/hunt/atv/>.



Revised 09-08-08

Motorized Vehicle Rules For Hunters



Remember...tread lightly!



Motorized Vehicle Rules

The Idaho Fish & Game Commission adopted rules regulating the use of motorized vehicles by hunters in some hunting units. The rules are in response to concerns expressed by many sportsmen and supported by more than 80 percent of the public in recent public surveys.* Many hunters are concerned about how the use of off-road vehicles can disrupt hunts and disturb other hunters. Other concerns include maintaining the "fair chase" ethic of hunting, and the potential vulnerability of game and resulting low buck:doe or bull:cow ratios.

* Survey: Wildlife Values and Beliefs of Idaho Residents-2004, Idaho Citizens Survey-2002.

The rules read: IDAPA 13.01.08.411

01. USE RESTRICTION

"In designated areas and hunts, hunters may only use motorized vehicles on established roadways which are open to motorized traffic and capable of being traveled by full-sized automobiles. Any other use by hunters is prohibited. All off-road use by hunters is prohibited."

02. EXCEPTIONS

This use restriction shall not apply to the following permissible motorized vehicle uses:

- a. Holders of a valid Disabled Persons Motor Vehicle Permit may use a motorized vehicle as allowed by the landowner or manager.

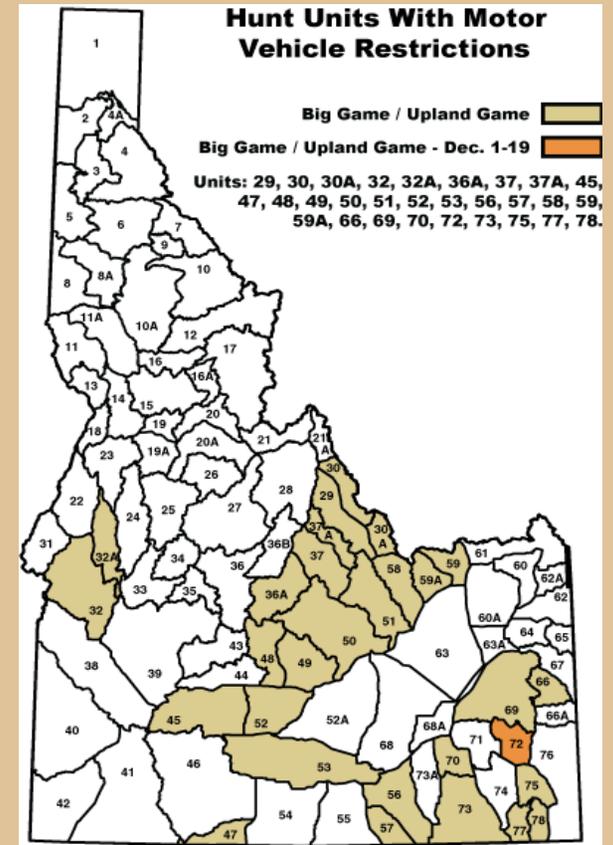


- b. Hunters may use a motorized vehicle to retrieve downed game if such travel is allowed by the landowner or manager.
- c. Hunters may use a motorized vehicle to pack camping equipment in or out if such travel is allowed by the landowner or manager; however, hunters shall not hunt while packing camping equipment.
- d. Private landowners, their authorized agents and persons with written landowner permission may use a motorized vehicle on their private land; however, they may not hunt from or by the use of any motorized vehicle as prohibited by Idaho Code Section 36-1101(b)(1).

IDAPA Rule 13.01.08.411 affirms that motorized vehicles are an aid to hunting and prohibits any use of motorized vehicles by hunters in designated areas and hunts, unless the road is open to full-sized vehicles, or the hunter falls under one of the four exceptions to the rule.

Confused about the exceptions? If the answer to the questions below is no, the use motor vehicles or OHVs by hunters is prohibited.

1. Am I holder of a valid Disabled Persons Motor Vehicle Permit on an OHV (off-highway-vehicle) trail where travel is allowed by the landowner or manager?
2. Am I retrieving downed game on an OHV trail where travel is allowed by the landowner or manager?
3. Am I packing camping equipment in or out on an OHV trail where travel is allowed by the landowner or manager?
4. Am I on private land with written permission from the landowner or manager?



For more information, visit the Fish and Game website at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>.

To report violations please call Citizens Against Poaching 1-800-632-5999

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