

# **NEW MEXICO OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OUTLINE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This outline is intended to provide goals and strategies for the implementation of the New Mexico Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Program under the Management of The Department of Game and Fish. This outline will provide a focus of efforts and actions by which the Department can work towards accomplishing its priorities, goals and objectives, while maintaining the best use of limited financial and human resources.

The Department will conduct operations openly with the Advisory Board, interested stakeholders, and other public agencies, and will account for their activities in an open and public manner. The Department will actively seek out information regarding stakeholders by holding public meetings, attending stakeholder conferences and general meetings.

## **PROGRAM GOAL**

That the New Mexico Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Program provides leadership in the area of OHV recreation, implements effective and accessible safety education, coordinates and conducts statewide conservation and law enforcement efforts and balances recreational activities with conservation and protection of New Mexico's cultural and natural resources.

### **Objectives, Strategies, and Action Plans:**

**Objective 1: – Coordinate and conduct Law Enforcement activities that are designed to improve OHV safety, reduce injury, and deter criminal activity:**

**Strategy 1.1:** Law Enforcement plays an important role in educating the OHV community and preventing misuse of OHVs. Violators must know that they stand a good chance of being caught and receiving a substantial fine for unlawful activities. Educational enforcement that targets new riders stands a better chance of shaping compliance in a positive way.

**Action Plan:**

- 1.1.1 Coordinate efforts with local and federal agencies to provide enforcement and awareness activity at popular riding areas.
- 1.1.2 Timely response to reports of illegal activity, investigation of violations, and document and provide findings to complainant.
- 1.1.3 Pursue prosecution and court-ordered restitution for resource and property damage.
- 1.1.4 Utilize creative patrol activities and technical investigative equipment to assist in detecting and apprehending violators.
- 1.1.5 Conduct planned and random sound and registration compliance checkpoints using SAE J1287 standard.
- 1.1.6 Create a database to track complaints and citations.
- 1.1.7 Implement and distribute a statewide Law Enforcement training course in off-highway motor vehicle prohibitions and current issues.
- 1.1.8 Implement a Trail Ambassador program to assist the Department with safety compliance and Tread Lightly principles.

**Objective 2: – To foster a safe and informed OHV community that is dedicated to safe and lawful OHV operation and responsible environmental stewardship.**

**Strategy 2.1:** The Department will work with the Advisory Board and the OHV Community to implement a statewide safety education program that promotes safe and environmentally responsible OHV recreation and a respect for private property.

**Action Plan:**

- 2.1.1 Certify and provide an effective statewide educational curriculum that meets the public demand for youth certification safety training.
- 2.1.2 Create a database to track the successful completion of certified safety training courses by OHV riders.
- 2.1.3 Distribute the Tread Lightly and Leave No Trace ethics brochures at all public events and OHV dealerships.
- 2.1.4 Encourage participation in OHV training programs that promote safe and responsible use among the entire OHV community.
- 2.1.5 Promote age appropriate size and fit standards through public events, trailhead outreach, public service announcements, and with on-the-ground compliance efforts.
- 2.1.6 Work with land management agencies to provide trailhead kiosks that provide the laws and ethics for responsible OHV use and program information.

- 2.1.7 Work with OHV user groups and dealerships to help educate the OHV community on environmentally responsible use.
- 2.1.8 Have OHV trail maps available to the public with corresponding route numbers visually marked on the trails to direct activity.
- 2.1.9 Utilize high visibility prevention patrols and public information checkpoints during the peak use periods with multiple agency participation.
- 2.1.10 Promote communication and an open dialogue between recreation groups.

### **Objective 3: - Collaboration with other Agencies:**

**Strategy 3.1:** The Department will work in a collaborative fashion with a variety of agencies and organizations to cooperatively implement a balanced management response to OHV use that respects the various interests involved.

#### **Action Plan:**

- 3.1.1 Use partnerships with federal, state and county agencies to provide registration compliance and on-the-ground education and enforcement.
- 3.1.2 Collaborate with appropriate land management agencies to develop criteria for signage related to off-road motor vehicle use.
- 3.1.3 Coordinate law enforcement efforts with land management agencies in cases of unlawful incursions into protected areas and private property.
- 3.1.4 Provide assistance with trail maintenance efforts.
- 3.1.5 Provide input into restoration or, if deemed necessary, the closure of trails that pose a significant or irreversible environmental damage or a danger to the public. As part of the closure process consider the construction of alternative tracks or trails.
- 3.1.6 Establish a statewide list of key contacts for use by this program, with a statewide list of key agency contacts for use by motorized recreationists.
- 3.1.7 Work with DMV to review the definition of off-highway motor vehicle as new vehicles become available in the market.

### **Objective 4: – Data Collection for Management-Decision Making and Evaluation:**

**Strategy 4.1:** Collect and evaluate data from a wide variety of sources to ensure decisions are based on the best and most current data. The data will be gathered and maintained in an accessible manner that is

available to the Board and stakeholder groups. Sharing data is essential to facilitate understanding of the issues surrounding this program and monitoring the effectiveness of the implementation strategies.

**Action Plan:**

- 4.1.1 Develop a toll free number and/or a web-based data collecting process for reporting OHV violations or property damage.
- 4.1.2 Develop a strategy for phased implementation of an information system to track use patterns, injuries, ecological data, natural resource, and data relating to the impact on traditional living culture and on agricultural land.
- 4.1.3 Collection and documentation of the current mileage of motorized recreation routes in the state that is consistent with the USFS Travel Management Plans to incorporate into the New Mexico OHV Program brochure and website.
- 4.1.4 Collect data from the Department of Motor Vehicles on OHV registrations, and OHV violations by type and location.

**Objective 5: - Grants and Cooperative Agreements:**

**Strategy 5.1:** To achieve the many goals and mandates of the OHV program, the Department will make grants and cooperative agreements available to fund OHV related projects statewide. The Department will ensure the appropriate use of these funds and will monitor these projects through completion.

**Action Plan:**

- 5.1.1 Accept and evaluate applications for grants from the fund for implementation of the provisions of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Act.
- 5.1.2 Establish criteria for grants from the fund that include: consideration of the applicants' legal status, applicants' management plan, including specific measures to avoid or minimize environmental damage to public and private lands and danger to users and spectators, operating budget for park, trail, facility or staging area, and availability of matching funds or public participation.
- 5.1.3 Make available a Grant Application Form.
- 5.1.4 Projects receiving funds from the OHV program will be posted on the OHV website for public view.

**Objective 6: – Increase OHV Registration Compliance:**

**Strategy 6.1:** Management of the OHV Registration program is a primary function of the New Mexico Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Program. The funds generated from OHV registrations are the primary funding source for the administration and implementation of the goals and objectives of this program.

**Action Plan:**

- 6.1.1 Education about the law to consumers from New Mexico dealerships is necessary to foster compliance at the onset of a purchase of an OHV.
- 6.1.2 Coordination with NM Motor Vehicle Division to provide OHV program information with renewal mailings.
- 6.1.3 Reduce the number of registration violations through outreach activities, publications, public service announcements, and other media efforts, with on-the-ground enforcement and volunteer efforts.
- 6.1.4 Solicit and review additional size, composition, and attachment mechanisms and other properties of off-highway motor vehicle identification.