

REGULATION OF DNR DESIGNATED RIDING AREAS

This is a summary of the regulations for Iowa's designated riding areas. However, it is not a complete list of all regulations or laws.
For more information, please reference Iowa Code Chapters 321I and Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 571.

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General Rules

- Registrations must be current, carried on the operator or machine, and must be displayed as required.
- Nonresident machines must display a current nonresident DNR user permit.
- Helmets are required for all operators and passengers on riding areas, parking, and loading areas.
- Passengers are only allowed on machines which are designed by the manufacturer to carry a passenger.
- Users of the park must comply with all posted signs.
- Hours of operation are sunrise to sunset, unless posted differently.
- All machines must have working brakes.
- All vehicles and trailers must be parked in designated parking areas and may not be left unattended in any park drive access.
- Unauthorized vehicles and hauling equipment may be towed at the owner's expense.
- Operation in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner, or at excessive speeds, is prohibited.
- Operation of a machine while under the influence of alcohol or narcotics is prohibited.
- Sound level limits are enforced. Aftermarket products may exceed acceptable levels (96 decibels).
- Consumption or possession of alcohol in the designated riding area is prohibited.
- Pets are not allowed in designated riding areas. They are permitted in parking and camping areas, if applicable.
- Persons shall operate only the vehicles allowed at a designated riding area that is signed as open for the specified vehicle. Bluff Creek does not allow ORV use, only ATV and ORM.

Age Considerations

- Operators of off-road vehicles (ORV) must have a valid driver's license.
- Operators of all-terrain vehicles (ATV) age 12-17 must carry a valid education certificate.
- Operators of all-terrain vehicles (ATV) and off-road motorcycles (ORM) under the age of 12 must be under direct supervision of an adult (18+) with a valid driver's license.

Operation with Passengers

- Number of passengers cannot exceed the manufacturer's recommended capacity and shall not exceed the number of passenger restraints installed (if applicable). Vehicles cannot be modified from the manufacturer's original design to carry a passenger.
- For an ATV or ORM, the passenger must be seated behind the operator and have the ability to securely hold on to the passenger handles or operator.
- For an ORV, a passenger must be able to place both feet flat on the floorboards with their back resting against the seat back.
- A valid driver's license is required to operate an ATV or ORM with a passenger.

Regulations Specific to Off-Road Utility Vehicles (ORV)

- Operator must possess a valid driver's license.
- The vehicle must be equipped with a roll-over protection system (ROPS) installed by the manufacturer.
- The vehicle must be equipped with manufacturer seat belts or equivalent that are in good working order.
- Operators and passengers must wear seat belts at all times and must keep hands, arms, legs, and feet inside of the vehicle while the vehicle is in motion.
- Vehicles cannot be home built or substantially modified from the manufacturer's specifications.
- The vehicle cannot be wider than 65 inches.