

Off-Highway Vehicles on County Roads

The recreational use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) is an incredibly important tourism activity in Colorado. A wide number of our counties – primarily on the Western Slope - have tourism economies that are dependent upon attracting OHV riders to their communities. Many of these counties have spent years designing amenities and designating road networks that attract thousands of riders from across the country each year. The terrain in these counties varies greatly, from the mountainous jeep roads in Southwest Colorado to flatter, more gentle terrain in Northwest Colorado.

Colorado Counties, Inc. has been engaged in a stakeholder process for the past several years to work on the issue of safe use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) on county roads throughout the state. This stakeholder process included county commissioners, county sheriffs, the off-highway vehicle coalition, Club 20, and a number of environmental groups.

In the course of this stakeholder work, CCI has consistently advocated for the following policy objectives:

- Protect existing statutory authority that allows counties to decide where OHV access is appropriate on county roads.
- Establish stronger local control authority to regulate OHV use on county roads, including enabling authority to establish local age requirements and insurance requirements.
- Improve the titling program for OHVs.
- Retain the agricultural exemption for OHV use on county roads.
- Retain the Division of Parks and Wildlife sticker and OHV trails program funding.

Please note that county regulatory authority over OHVs would **not** apply to OHV off-road and trail use on public lands. OHV use on public lands is governed by various state and federal agencies. Current state rules (adopted by Colorado Parks and Wildlife) allow riders who are 10-15 years old to operate OHVs on designated county roads if they are under the supervision of a licensed operator.

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