

Desert Tortoise

Whether going off-road for work or fun, the Mojave Desert's unique environment makes it a great place to drive ORVs.

The desert tortoise is a state and federally listed threatened species. The desert tortoise and habitat critical to its survival are protected by law. It is illegal to injure or kill this animal or disturb its critical habitat. Everyone at Edwards AFB, from military and civilians to dependents and visitors, are responsible for protecting this animal.

It is mandatory to stay on existing roads and trails. This is important in protecting the desert tortoise and its habitat. Riders must be vigilant while riding to avoid harming desert tortoises and other animals. Responsible ORV use and a good outdoor recreation ethic will help ensure continued use of this area.

If a desert tortoise is encountered, do not touch or harm the animal. Warn others of its presence and avoid riding in the area.

Make sure to check under parked vehicles before driving. Desert tortoises often seek shade under parked vehicles.

Everyone who drives off road must first attend desert tortoise training. This training helps ORV drivers better understand ways to protect desert tortoises and the environment. Contact Environmental Management at 277-1401 to schedule desert tortoise training.

Things to Consider

- Do not ride at a high rate of speed without first checking the area for other people and any possible hidden hazards. Off-road Vehicle Area 2 is also used by horseback riders and hikers. Also, children frequently play in the desert.
- Make certain someone is aware of your route and intended return time.
- Use common sense when riding. Don't over extend your riding capabilities.
- If you find arrowheads, colored glass or artifacts of any kind, leave them alone. Notify Environmental Management.

Be Safe and Have Fun!

For more information, contact:

Environmental Management	277-1401
Safety Office	277-4640
Security Forces	
Wildlife	277-7139
Law Enforcement	277-3340
Outdoor Recreation	275-2267
Emergencies	277-3340

Off-Road Vehicles on Edwards Air Force Base



**95th Air Base Wing
Civil Engineer/Transportation
Directorate
Environmental Management Division**

Enjoying Edwards AFB's Off-Road Vehicle Areas Safely

Edwards AFB has two authorized off-road vehicle (ORV) areas. These areas provide a place for base personnel and guests to enjoy recreational riding.

Vehicles

- Off-highway motorcycles (dirt bikes), dual sport bikes (off-highway motorcycles that are street legal), all terrain vehicles (ATVs) (three- or four-wheel) are all authorized to operate in the ORV areas on base. Off-road vehicles authorized to operate are limited to those vehicles covered by Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA) training.

Rules of Operation

- Off-road vehicle areas are only open during daylight hours.
- Prior to operating an ORV at Edwards AFB, all recreational ORV operators are required to satisfactorily complete the approved SVIA safety training course as well as desert tortoise training.
- Drivers must watch for and avoid animals crossing roads.
- Never leave litter in the desert. Drivers must properly dispose of trash upon returning to the housing area.
- All ORV area users must stay on existing dirt roads and trails.
- Speed limit is restricted to 15 miles per hour on access routes.
- All users under 18 years of age must be supervised by an adult at all times.

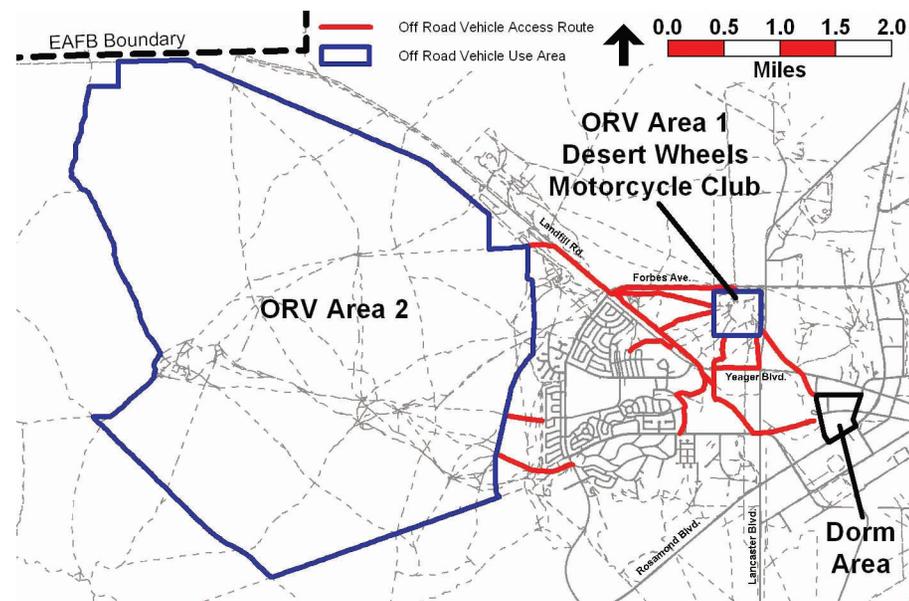
- All ORVs must be in proper and safe working condition.
- When crossing paved roads be sure to stop and look both ways before proceeding.

Safety Gear

- Protective helmets (Department of Transportation approved) must be worn by all riders and passengers. They must be properly fastened under the chin at all times.
- Eye protection must be in place when the vehicle is in motion.
- Riders must wear full-fingered gloves.
- Boots or shoes must cover the entire foot and extend above the ankle.
- Riders must dress in long-sleeved shirts or jackets and full-length pants.

Where to Ride

- Use only designated access routes to and from the areas.
- Ride only on existing roads and trails within the ORV area.
- Stay within ORV boundaries.



Off-Road Vehicle Areas

- Do not operate in ORV Area 1 without proper authorization from the Desert Wheels Motorcycle Club except to access Area 2.

Areas to Avoid

- Do not operate within 1 mile of the base riding stables with the exception of the landfill access route.
- Do not operate within 1/2 mile of the clinic, any base housing area, communication facility or electronic antenna.

This pamphlet provides general information, rules and precautions for ORV area users. For additional guidance, contact Security Forces, Safety or Environmental Management, depending on the nature of the questions.