

# SAND DUNING

By practicing the Tread Lightly! principles you not only protect the outdoors but you protect access to recreation opportunities for years to come.

Tread Lightly!® is a national nonprofit organization with a mission to proactively protect recreation access and opportunities in the outdoors through education and stewardship initiatives. Not only is Tread Lightly! the nation's signature ethics message for outdoor enthusiasts that use motorized vehicles while enjoying the outdoors, Tread Lightly! offers unique training and restoration programs strategically designed to instill an ethic of responsibility in a wide variety of outdoor enthusiasts and the industries that serve them.

- T**RAVEL RESPONSIBLY
- R**ESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS
- E**DUCCATE YOURSELF
- A**VOID SENSITIVE AREAS
- D**O YOUR PART



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Download *The Tread Lightly! Guide to Responsible Sand Duning* for more useful information for riding in the great outdoors at [www.treadlightly.org](http://www.treadlightly.org).

Thanks to our partner!



**TREAD LIGHTLY!'S**  
RESPONSIBLE RECREATION TIPS



## TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY

Travel responsibly on designated roads and trails or in permitted areas.

- ✔ Travel only in areas open to off-highway vehicles (OHVs).
- ✔ In areas adjacent to sand dunes travel on designated roads and trails.
- ✔ Dunes are constantly changing—use stationary landmarks or a GPS to help you navigate.
- ✔ Watch for ravines, depressions (witches eye), and steep drop offs (slipface and razorbacks) formed by blowing sand.
- ✔ Use a spotter when jumping hills or dunes.
- ✔ Scout areas before traveling at higher speeds.
- ✔ Reduce speed in blowing sand or whiteout conditions.
- ✔ In coastal duning areas, watch for quicksand in low areas between dunes.
- ✔ Comply with all signs and barriers.
- ✔ Buddy up with two or three riders. Riding solo can leave you vulnerable if you have an accident or breakdown. Designate meeting areas in case of separation.

## RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

Respect the rights of others including private property owners and all recreational trail users, campers and others to allow them to enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.

- ✔ Be considerate of others on the dunes.
- ✔ Leave gates as you find them.
- ✔ If crossing private property, be sure to ask permission from the landowner(s).
- ✔ Do not idly ride around in camping, picnicking, or residential areas.
- ✔ Keep speeds low around crowds and camping areas.
- ✔ Keep the noise down.

## EDUCATE YOURSELF

Educate yourself by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies, planning for your trip, taking recreation skills classes, and knowing how to use and operate your equipment safely.

- ✔ Obtain a map of your destination and determine which areas are open to motorized vehicles.
- ✔ Make a realistic plan, and stick to it. Always tell someone of your travel plans.
- ✔ Contact the land manager for area restrictions, closures, and permit requirements.
- ✔ Check the weather forecast before you go.
- ✔ Prepare for the unexpected by packing a small backpack full of emergency items.
- ✔ Wear a helmet, eye protection, and other safety gear when riding dirt bikes or ATVs.
- ✔ Buckle up when riding sand rails, side by sides/UTVs, and four wheeling vehicles.
- ✔ Sand rails, side by sides/UTVs, and four wheeling vehicles should always carry a fire extinguisher.
- ✔ Know your limitations. Watch your time, your fuel, and your energy.
- ✔ Take an OHV safety-training course. They provide a fast paced hands-on training on vehicle operation and safety.
- ✔ Make sure your OHV is mechanically up to task. Be prepared with tools, supplies, spares, and a spill kit for trailside repairs.

## AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS

Avoid sensitive areas such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands and streams, unless on designated routes.

- ✔ Avoid dunes adjacent to rivers, streams, and lakes.
- ✔ Avoid disturbing historical, archeological, and paleontological sites.
- ✔ Avoid running over plants; it's damaging to your vehicle and the environment.
- ✔ Avoid “spooking” wildlife you encounter and keep your distance.
- ✔ Motorized and mechanized vehicles are not allowed in areas designated as Wilderness.

## DO YOUR PART

Do your part by leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire, avoiding the spread of invasive species, restoring degraded areas, and joining a local enthusiast organization.

- ✔ Don't litter in the dunes! Blowing sand hides trash—only to reappear later.
- ✔ Carry a trash bag on your vehicle and pick up litter left by others.
- ✔ Practice minimum impact camping by using established sites and camping 200 feet from water resources and trails.
- ✔ In areas without toilets, pack solid waste out. Sand has no viable microorganisms to break down human solid waste.
- ✔ Spark arrestors are required on all OHVs traveling on public lands.
- ✔ Protect the soundscape by preventing unnecessary noise created by a poorly tuned vehicle or revving your engine without need. Use proper silencers on exhausts, which meet regulatory decibel levels.
- ✔ Following a ride, wash your OHV and support vehicle to reduce the spread of invasive species.
- ✔ Don't mix riding with alcohol or drugs.

