



April 2014

Alberta Off Highway Vehicle Association Key Messages

Provincial Recreation Trail Development in Alberta

AOHVA Key Messages

AOHVA is based around three principals:

SAFETY – safe operation of age-appropriate off highway vehicles, wearing proper safety gear (including helmets) and riding on designated trails only

RESPONSIBILITY - we respect our environment, are considerate of the activities of other outdoor enthusiasts, and we practice” leave no trace”

COMPLIANCE – our members are expected to comply with all posted signage, trail rules, and condition notices

- AOHVA represents a broad range of off-highway recreation organizations and their members from across the province; these being all-terrain vehicles (ATV's), off-road motorcycles (ORM's) and utility terrain vehicles (UTV's or side by sides). In fact, in Alberta, there are nearly 110,000 registered motorized off highway vehicles out of the estimated 165,000 in Alberta as of March 2013.
- Recreation trail building in Alberta began and continues with volunteers from local clubs, but volunteers can no longer be the sole means to sustain the demands of building, maintaining and operating this growing recreation. In fact, local clubs demonstrate responsible use of the landscape by voluntarily building and maintaining trails, building and installing bridges and provide safety and driver certification. They hold fundraising events where the profits go into all these initiatives in order to keep them recreating in a responsible environmentally sustainable way.
- Growth of off-highway recreational activities in Alberta now requires a new model of effective management, including the collection of user fees for the development of a Provincial designated, sustainable trail system for multiple users.

- AOHVA has worked diligently for the past 5 years to establish a Recreation Trails DAO to ensure the appropriate development, enhancement and maintenance of sustainable, designated trails for all off-highway recreation enthusiasts in Alberta.
- AOHVA, its member clubs and partners remain firmly committed to the establishment of a Recreation Trails DAO, and to the implementation of an allocated funding model as the preferred means of achieving a province wide network of sustainable, designated trails. AOHVA continues to work with, and involve local clubs in this Provincial initiative. Our user group supports a trail enhancement fee to make this recreation industry sustainable province wide.

AOHVA POSITIONS ON SAFETY

- AOHVA will continue to work with other agencies to develop and deliver safety and educational programs to schools and community groups.
- AOHVA also supports ongoing education, certification and organization of competitive events for all members of the family, provincially and locally.

AOHVA POSITIONS ON RESPONSIBILITY

- AOHVA remains committed to finding workable solutions to managing the responsible use of recreation trails on public and private land through education and enforcement if required to ensure respect for the environment by all users.
- Irresponsible use of public lands and/or environmentally sensitive areas by some members of the public impacts the landscape and generates negative media attention detrimental to legitimate activities. AOHVA is not part of this problem and do not condone unruly, or unsanctioned activity on the land; rather, with the establishment of a DAO, they can be a more effective part of the solution.

- Educate the public about the need for responsible behaviour in wilderness campgrounds and during off-highway recreational activities.
 - creates awareness and diminishes the incidence of destructive and unruly behavior
- Develop innovative ways to fund the development of more well situated sites for random camping, especially sites that would accommodate today's extra-large RV rigs that individuals and families use for both camping and towing their off-road vehicles
 - increases the number of sites for random camping, especially for rigs that do not fit in existing campgrounds
- AOHVA supports effective stewardship of Alberta's public lands, including the need to manage access and use, as well as the protection of sensitive areas.
- AOHVA encourages and supports the development of the Land Use Framework for the respectful enjoyment of the back country, understanding that it is there to protect the environment and wilderness FOR the people of Alberta and not to keep it FROM the people.

AOHVA POSITIONS ON COMPLIANCE

- Trail building to national standards within provincial regulations authorized by a recreation trails DAO with stakeholder input can make this recreational activity a world-class industry for Alberta.