

Off-Road Vehicles

The below listed Nevada statutes and County codes specifically apply to dirt bikes and/or ATVs:

NRS 484.081 Motor Vehicle Defined: “Motor vehicle” means every vehicle which is self-propelled but not operated upon rails. (Applies to four-wheeled ATVs.)

NRS 484.083/County Code 50.218 Motorcycle Defined: “Motorcycle” means every motor vehicle equipped with a seat or saddle for the use of the driver and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, including a power cycle but excluding a tractor or a moped.

NRS 484.0798 Moped Defined: “Moped” means a vehicle which looks and handles essentially like a bicycle and is propelled by a small engine which produces not more than 2 gross brake bike horsepower and which has a displacement of not more than 50 cubic centimeters, and:

1. Is designed to travel on not more than 3 wheels in contact with the ground but is not a tractor, and;
2. Is capable of maximum speed of not more than 30 miles per hour on a flat surface with not more than 1 percent grade in any direction when the motor is engaged.

NRS 482.545 Unregistered Vehicle: It is unlawful for any person to operate an unregistered vehicle on any state highway or county roadway.

NRS 483.550 License Restrictions: No person may operate a motor vehicle on a state highway or county roadway without possessing a valid driver's license.

NRS 484.361 Basic Speed Law: It is unlawful for any person to drive or operate a vehicle of any kind or character at:

1. A rate of speed greater than is reasonable or proper, having due regard for the traffic, surface, width, weather, and other highway conditions.
2. The traffic laws of the State apply to all motor vehicles, including ATVs and dirt bikes.

NRS 484.379 DUI: It is unlawful for any person who is under the influence to drive a vehicle on a highway or premises to which the public has access.

Washoe County Code 50.221

“Off-road vehicle” defined. “Off-road vehicle” means any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain, except that such terms exclude:

(a) Any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle when used for official business; and

(b) Any vehicle whose use is otherwise expressly authorized by law.

County Code 50.220 “Off-road vehicle area” defined

1. “Off-road vehicle area” means any real property in the unincorporated area of the county, other than a dedicated street, private street or road authorized by a public agency for recreational vehicle use, where riders of motorcycles or off-road vehicles drive their vehicles for recreational purposes.

County Code 50.224 Unlawful Acts:

1. It is unlawful to operate a motorcycle or an off-road vehicle on public or private land within 1,000 feet of any residence owned or occupied by another, unless for:

- (a) Purposes of ingress onto or egress from the operator's property, or
- (b) Traditional use for property maintenance or on property actively used primarily for farming, or
- (c) Operation of a lawful vehicle on public streets and highways, or
- (d) The official business of the military, fire, emergency or law enforcement.

2. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to permit any motorcycle or off-road vehicle to be driven so as to disturb the peace and quiet of any neighborhood.

3. Off-road vehicle courses are allowed only as authorized in chapter 110 of this code.

County Code 50.226 Penalty:

Any person who violates any of the provisions of sections 50.216 to 50.226, exclusive, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000.

Firearms

NRS 202.253 Definitions: As used in NRS 202.253 to NRS 202.369, inclusive:

1. “Explosive or incendiary device” means any explosive or incendiary material or substance that has been constructed, altered, packaged or arranged in such a manner that its ordinary use would cause destruction or injury to life or property.
2. “Firearm” means any device designed to be used as a weapon from which a projectile may be expelled through the barrel by the force of any explosion or other form of combustion.

NRS 202.300 Use or possession of firearm by child under age of 18 years; unlawful to aid or permit child to commit violation; penalties; child 14 years of age or older authorized to possess firearm under certain circumstances.

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a child under the age of 18 years shall not handle or have in his possession or under his control, except while accompanied by or under the immediate charge of his parent or guardian or an adult person authorized by his parent or guardian to have control or custody of the child, any firearm of any kind for hunting or target practice or for other purposes. A child who violates this subsection commits a delinquent act and the court may order the detention of the child in the same manner as if the child had committed an act that would have been a felony if committed by an adult.

2. Every person violating any of the provisions of subsection 1, or aiding or knowingly permitting any such minor to violate the same, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

County Code 50.092 Unlawful Discharge of Firearms; exemption:

1. It is unlawful for any person to discharge:

(a) Any gun, pistol, rifle, shotgun or other firearm in, on or across any county road or highway.

(b) Any gun, pistol, rifle or other firearm, with the exception of shotguns, air rifles or B-B guns, within 5,000 feet of any dwelling occupied by another person or persons.

(c) Any shotgun, air rifle, or B-B gun within 1,000 feet of any dwelling occupied by another person or persons.

(d) Any gun, pistol, rifle, shotgun or other firearm within any congested area of the county.

2. This section does not apply to peace officers nor to persons shooting in any regularly established and lawfully authorized and licensed rifle range, gun club, or shooting gallery nor to any person lawfully discharging a firearm in protection of life or property.

NRS 503.165 Carrying loaded rifle or shotgun in or on vehicle on or along public way unlawful; exceptions.

1. It is unlawful to carry a loaded rifle or loaded shotgun in or on any vehicle which is standing on or along, or is being driven on or along, any public highway or any other way open to the public.

2. A rifle or shotgun is loaded, for the purposes of this section, when there is an unexpended cartridge or shell in the firing chamber, but not when the only cartridges or shells are in the magazine.

County Code 50.162 Nighttime shooting and spotlight hunting prohibited.

Except as otherwise authorized by law, it is unlawful for any person to discharge a firearm of any kind between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise or shine a spotlight between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise for the purpose of hunting a wild animal in the unincorporated areas of the county.

Part one of this pamphlet is intended to provide off-road vehicle owners, operators and dirt bike riders with the major law and ordinances governing the use of these vehicles in Washoe County. It is intended for information purposes only. The same traffic laws apply to all motor vehicles including ATVs and dirt bikes.

All vehicles which are operated on County and State roadways must have proper lights and safety equipment. Since this pamphlet only applies to off-road vehicles, these statutes are not covered.

Part two of this pamphlet provides the recreational shooter with information on State law and County ordinances governing the definition and use of firearms.

We hope this information is helpful, with regards to your enjoyment and safety, during your recreational use of public land in Washoe County.



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Our Community"

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Off-Road Vehicles and Firearms



What You Need to Know About Their Recreational Use On Public Land In Washoe County

