

## ***Educate yourself – plan and prepare before you go***

Know where you're permitted to ride. Make sure you have a current map. When you trespass on private property or in closed areas your actions speak for all OHV riders. If you're not sure about where you are permitted to be, call ahead before going.

## ***Allow for future use of the outdoors – leave it better than you found it***

Clean up after yourself. Trash is an eyesore – even food scraps take a long time to break down and may attract pests. When you leave the land in better condition than you find it, everybody wins.

## ***Discover the rewards of responsible recreation***

Your actions speak for all OHV riders. Leave a good impression with everyone you meet on the trail. Common courtesy and knowledge of trail ethics will go a long way towards preserving your privilege to ride on public lands. How you treat the land when riding will also be judged by land managers. We all have a responsibility to do our part to minimize our impact on public lands.

**For maps and descriptions of OHV areas, contact:**

**Tonto National Forest  
Mesa Ranger District  
5140 E. Ingram Street  
Mesa, AZ 85205**

**Phone: 480-610-3300 Fax: 480-610-3346  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto>**

### **Mesa City Code 10-3-18.N.1**

Prohibits driving a vehicle upon real property without the consent of the land owner.

### **Mesa City Code 8-2-4.D**

Prohibits off road and motor vehicles from being driven on a vacant parcel and urban or suburban area without first implementing control measures to effectively prevent or minimize fugitive dust.

### **Mesa City Code 8-3-8**

Prohibits indiscriminate dumping within the city limits of Mesa.

### **Trespassing Arizona Revised Statute 13-1502.A1**

Prohibits knowingly entering or remaining unlawfully on any real property after a reasonable request to leave by the owner or any other person having lawful control over such property, or reasonable notice prohibiting entry.

A posted and properly located "No Trespassing" sign is considered reasonable notice. Those who have been given a verbal trespass warning by the police are considered reasonably notified/warned.

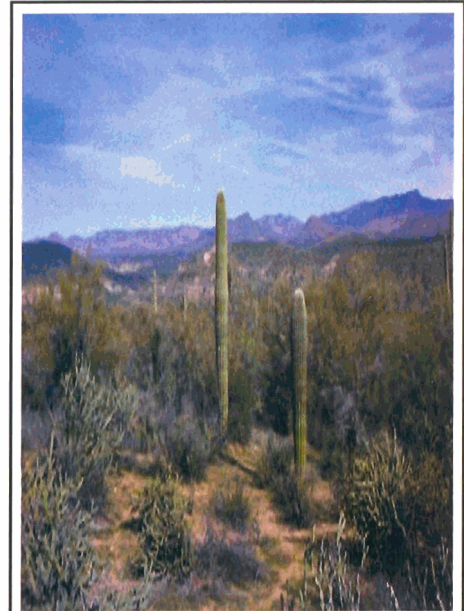
The Mesa Police Department is currently working with property owners to properly post no trespassing signs where they are needed.

*The Mesa Police Department will increase enforcement involving ATVs / Off-highway vehicles.*

**Mesa Police Department  
Phone: 480-644-2324  
Fax: 480-644-2274**



<http://www.cityofmesa.org/cityhome>



## **RECREATIONAL AND MOTOR VEHICLE USE IN DESERT AREAS**



**MESA POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**



**TONTO NATIONAL  
FOREST  
MESA RANGER DISTRICT**



**ARIZONA  
TRAIL RIDERS**

The Mesa Police Department and Mesa Ranger District of the Tonto National Forest welcome motorized recreation enthusiasts on public lands. We have developed this brochure in an effort to better manage motorized recreation and provide rider education so that you can continue to enjoy your riding areas.

## Background

Since 2002 numerous citizen complaints and calls for police service have resulted from the high volume of recreational and motor vehicles that are being driven in the desert.

The City of Mesa has experienced a substantial increase in calls for police service relating to the use of recreational vehicles. The complaints received from citizens are:

- Excessive noise from recreational and motor vehicles being used in the desert
- Health problems caused by excessive dust
- Trespassing on state and private land and desert areas
- Dumping of garbage on desert land (trash, landscape and construction debris, discarded appliances, etc.)
- Desert parties involving underage consumption of alcohol and drugs.
- Injuries/accidents with OHVs

*There are no known areas where ATVs / OHVs (all-terrain vehicles and off-highway vehicles) may be operated in the City of Mesa. But there are OHV areas identified on the Tonto National Forest.*

## Purpose

It is the goal of the Mesa Police Department to reduce the problems encountered by our citizens, reduce the calls for service and help the public find areas on the national forest open to OHV use. Enforcement in the City of Mesa will be elevated due to the increase in the complaints received. *Motorized travel on public lands is a privilege, not a right so, operate your OHV in designated areas only.*

### ***TREAD LIGHTLY!***

*Travel and recreate with minimum impact.*

*Respect the environment and the rights of others.*

*Educate yourself--plan and prepare before you go.*

*Allow for future use of the outdoors--leave it better than you found it.*

*Discover the rewards of responsible recreation.*

### ***Travel and recreate with minimum impact***

Once resource damage occurs it is expensive to repair. Rehabilitation often includes closing areas to the public so the vegetation can recover. Common reasons for closing areas to motorized travel are: failing to protect Arizona's beautiful landscapes or disturbing local landowners or other recreationists with unnecessary noise and dust. **In order to keep designated trails and areas on public land open for motorized use, it is essential that OHV enthusiasts minimize their impact on the land.** Developing a sound land ethic will

keep portions of our public lands open to motorized vehicles, and help protect our natural resources for everyone to enjoy.

### ***Respect the environment and the rights of others***

OHV enthusiasts share the outdoors with numerous other recreationists such as hikers, equestrian and mountain bike riders. Each user group has a different perspective about public lands and their recreational interests. **Common courtesy and knowledge of trail ethics is essential for all to be able to enjoy their outdoor adventure. Maintaining trail opportunities includes cooperating with private landowners, abiding by travel restrictions and showing courtesy to other people encountered on the trail and living near the trail.** Respecting other users and protecting the land will assure everyone can enjoy their adventures on our public lands. Please minimize sound and dust around homes and other users.

