



## POSITION IN OPPOSITION TO ON-HIGHWAY OPERATION OF ROVs

The Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA) is a not-for-profit trade association formed to promote the safe and responsible use of recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs) manufactured or distributed in North America. ROHVA also serves as the primary resource for information on ROVs. An ROV – sometimes referred to as a side-by-side or UTV – is a motorized off-highway vehicle designed to travel on four or more non-highway tires, with a steering wheel, nonstraddle seating, seat belts, an occupant protective structure, and engine displacement up to 1,000cc. Current models are designed with seats for a driver and one or more passengers.

ROHVA's primary goal is to promote safe and responsible use of ROVs. ROHVA **opposes allowing ROVs on roads that are not part of a designated trail system** because:

- ROV manufacturers design, test, and sell ROVs for *off-highway use only*.
- Unlike cars and trucks, ROVs do not meet Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Allowing ROVs on roads falsely signals that this practice is safe. It is not. ROV manufacturers, along with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, stress that ROVs are not designed for use on public roadways. The vehicles do not handle properly on paved roads and lack vehicle designs and safety equipment required to protect occupants in the event of a collision. On-road ROV operators and passengers face increased risks of collisions with cars and trucks, posing an increased risk of injury or death. These risks remain even when owners or aftermarket providers install modifications.

ROHVA strongly opposes ROV use on public roads except to cross at a 90-degree angle when necessary to connect trail systems. States could prevent a substantial number of ROV-related injuries by keeping ROVs off public roads, which ROHVA proposes in its model legislation.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://rohva.org/model-law/>