



Wyoming Comprehensive
**Off-Road Vehicle
Recreation Report**

Summary of Key Findings

2012

Report by University of Wyoming,
Department of Agricultural and
Applied Economics



The University of Wyoming – Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics conducted a study of off-road vehicle (ORV) recreational use during the 2012 recreation season for the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources – Trails Program.

Resident and nonresident ORV riders were surveyed to determine use and spending patterns along with demographics and priorities for future management of the State ORV Trails Program.

The complete study report can be viewed at <http://wyotrails.state.wy.us/Research/Index.aspx>

**ORV recreation
generates a total of
\$244.2 million per year
of economic activity for
the Wyoming economy.**



Total direct ORV-related expenditures in Wyoming totals \$206.2 million per year

- Residents: \$105.4 million in trip expenditures and \$80.3 million in annual equipment expenditures in Wyoming; annual expenditures total \$185.7 million
- Nonresidents: \$17.9 million in trip expenditures and \$2.6 million in annual equipment expenditures in Wyoming; annual expenditures total \$20.5 million
- Residents: spent an average of \$40.54 per day on their most recent trip; about 45% was for gasoline followed by 38% for food, 6.4% for vehicle maintenance/repairs, and 3.9% for lodging; also spent an average of \$1,800 per person per year for equipment and accessories in Wyoming
- Nonresidents: spent an average of \$60.61 per day on their most recent trip; about 33% was for gasoline followed by 30.9% for food, 20.7% for lodging and 5.5% for souvenirs and other retail items; also spent an average of \$231 per person per year for equipment and accessories while in Wyoming
- The regional modeling system IMPLAN estimates that the \$206.2 million in direct ORV rider spending results in another \$38 million in secondary activity in the Wyoming economy
- IMPLAN estimates this economic activity supports the equivalent of 1,468 annual jobs with labor income of \$49.5 million
- The IMPLAN model also estimates the economic activity associated with ORV recreation generates almost \$9.6 million in state and local government revenue in Wyoming

General Characteristics of Wyoming ORV Riders



Residents stated their top three priorities for use of ORV registration/user fees were: (1) new trail construction (40%), (2) trail maintenance (23%) and (3) planning for new trails (19%); trail maps and trail signing were also rated as important priorities.

- 70% of residents and 90% of nonresidents stated they were ‘satisfied’ or ‘extremely satisfied’ with their overall recreational ORV riding experience in Wyoming; residents were most satisfied with riding opportunities on roads while nonresidents were most satisfied with riding opportunities on trails; both groups were least satisfied with website/online information
- 94% of ORV trips taken by Wyoming residents were in Wyoming while only 53% of nonresident ORV riders’ annual trips were taken in Wyoming
- 93% of resident ORV riders’ days were spent riding in Wyoming while only 56% of nonresident ORV riders’ total annual riding days were spent in Wyoming
- Resident riders spent an average of 4.5 hours on their ORV while traveling an average of 29 miles per day while nonresident riders spent about 5.8 hours on their ORV while traveling an average of 38 miles per day
- Nonresidents stated their top three priorities for use of ORV registration/user fees were: (1) new trail construction (36%), (2) trail signage (23%) and (3) trail maps (20%); trail maintenance and planning for new trails were also rated as important priorities
- Residents stated that (1) more roads designated open to ORVs, (2) more designated ORV trails, (3) accurate and easy to read trail maps, (4) more designated open riding areas, (5) longer length of trails, (6) signage on trails, and (7) loop trails are important priorities while having services available along trails is not important
- Nonresidents stated that (1) accurate and easy to read trail maps, (2) more designated ORV trails, (3) more roads designated open to ORVs, (4) signage on trails, (5) more designated open riding areas, (6) longer length of trails, (7) trails that are challenging, and (8) loop trails are important priorities while having law enforcement and services available along trails is not important

Characteristics of Wyoming Resident ORV Riders

- Average 17 years of experience riding ORVs with 16 years of experience riding ORVs in Wyoming
- Average 2.4 riders per household with an average of 2.1 ATVs, 0.8 off-road motorcycle, and 0.5 other ORVs (more than 50" wide weighing over 1,100 pounds) per household
- Average 38.6 days per year riding ORVs in Wyoming; average group size is 4.2 people with 2.8 ORVs and 1.8 passenger vehicles
- Resident recreational ORV riding occurs year-round within Wyoming: July is the heaviest use month (88% of riders reported trips in July) while trips during May, June, August, September, and October were noted by 71% to 85% of riders; February had the least amount of resident ORV activity (trips reported by 27% of riders) while 28% to 48% of riders reported ORV trips during November, December, January, March and April
- 47% indicated recreational ORV riding was the primary purpose of their reported trips while 17% indicated hunting, 17% camping, and 14% fishing as the primary purpose of their reported ORV trips
- Average travel time to site of most recent ORV trip was 1.9 hours and about 80 miles from home
- Residents spent an average of 4 nights away from home on their most recent ORV trip; 33% didn't have an overnight stay and returned home the same day as their trip
- The largest amount of resident ORV use comes from people who live in Sweetwater, Fremont, Natrona, Lincoln, Campbell, Sheridan, Laramie, and Uinta Counties



Characteristics of Nonresident ORV Riders

- Average 19 years of experience riding ORVs with 8 years of experience riding ORVs in Wyoming
- Average 2.7 riders per household with an average of 2.2 ATVs, 1 off-road motorcycle, and 0.5 other ORVs (more than 50" wide weighing over 1,100 pounds) per household
- Average 17.6 days per year riding ORVs in Wyoming; average group size is 6.4 people with 4.2 ORVs and 2.2 passenger vehicles
- Nonresident recreational ORV riding occurs year-round in Wyoming: July is by far the heaviest use month (78% of riders reported trips in July) while trips during May, June, August, September and October were noted by 21% to 51% of riders; January had the least amount of nonresident ORV activity (trips reported by 5% of riders) while 6% to 14% of riders reported ORV trips in November, December, February, March and April
- 56% indicated recreational ORV riding was the primary purpose of their reported trips while 17% indicated camping, 11% fishing, and 9% hunting as the primary purpose of their reported ORV trips
- Average travel time to site of most recent ORV trip was 7.5 hours and about 420 miles from home
- Nonresidents spent an average of 6.2 nights in Wyoming while away from home on their most recent ORV trip; 9% didn't have an overnight stay and returned home the same day as their trip

The largest amount of nonresident ORV use comes from people who live in Colorado, Montana, Utah, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, Idaho, and Minnesota

Off-Road Vehicle Use Patterns

- About 56,000 ORVs are registered in Wyoming with 80 percent owned by Wyoming residents and 20 percent belonging to nonresidents
- Wyoming residents account for almost 2.6 million ORV visitor days annually while nonresident ORV riders account for about 296,000 annual visitor days
- 72% of all resident ORV use days occurred in 5 areas: Southwest Wyoming BLM lands – 18.2%, Bighorn National Forest – 16.3%, Bridger-Teton National Forest – 13.9%, Central Wyoming National Grasslands and BLM lands – 13.3% and Medicine Bow National Forest – 10.3%
- 74% of all nonresident ORV use days within Wyoming occurred in 4 areas: Bighorn National Forest – 23%, Medicine Bow National Forest – 22.8%, Bridger-Teton National Forest – 19.7% and Southwest Wyoming BLM lands – 8.4%



Wyoming residents account for almost 2.6 million ORV visitor days annually while nonresident ORV riders account for about 296,000 annual visitor days.



Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites & Trails

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Wyoming Department of State Parks & Cultural Resources

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