

Desert Tortoise

Whether going off-road for work or fun, the Mojave Desert's unique environment makes it a great place to drive off-road vehicles.

The desert tortoise is a state and federally listed threatened species. The desert tortoise and habitat critical to its survival are protected by law. It is illegal to injure or kill this animal or disturb its critical habitat. Everyone at Edwards AFB, from military and civilians to dependents and visitors, are responsible for protecting this animal.

It is mandatory to stay on existing roads and trails. This is important in protecting the desert tortoise and its habitat. Riders must be vigilant while riding to avoid harming desert tortoises and other animals. Responsible off-road vehicle use and a good outdoor recreation ethic will help ensure continued use of this area.

If a desert tortoise is encountered, do not touch or harm the animal. Warn others of its presence and avoid riding in the area.

Make sure to check under parked vehicles before driving. Desert tortoises often seek shade under parked vehicles.

Everyone who drives off road must first attend desert tortoise training. This training helps off-road vehicle drivers better understand ways to protect desert tortoises and the environment. Contact Environmental Management at 277-1401 to schedule desert tortoise training.

Other Things to Consider

- Do not ride at a high rate of speed without first checking the area for other people and any possible hidden hazards. Off-road vehicle area 2 is also used by horseback riders and hikers. Children also frequently play in the desert.
- Make certain someone is aware of your route and intended return time.
- Use common sense when riding. Don't over extend your riding capabilities.
- If you find arrowheads, colored glass or artifacts of any kind, leave them alone. Notify Environmental Management.

Be Safe and Have Fun!

For more information, contact:

Environmental Management	277-1401
Safety Office	277-4640
Security Forces	277-7138
Outdoor Recreation	277-3546
Emergencies	911

Off-Road Vehicles on Edwards Air Force Base



**Air Force Flight Test Center
Environmental Management**

Enjoying Edwards AFB's Off-Road Vehicle Use Areas Safely

Edwards AFB has two authorized off-road vehicle areas. These areas provide a place for base personnel and guests to ride off-road motorcycles or all-terrain vehicles.

Vehicles

- Motorcycles and three- or four-wheeled all-terrain vehicles are authorized.
- Dune buggies, sand rails and similar vehicles are not authorized.

Rules of Operation

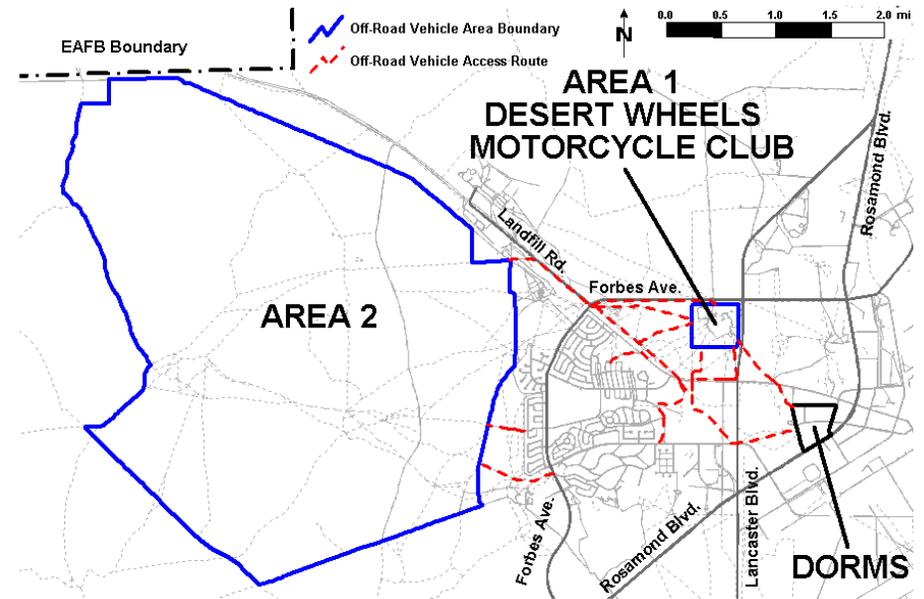
- Off-road vehicle areas are open during daylight hours.
- All drivers must receive mandatory desert tortoise training. Contact Environmental Management at 277-1401.
- Drivers must watch for animals crossing roads.
- Never leave litter in the desert. Drivers must dispose of trash properly upon returning to the housing area.
- All off-road vehicle area users must stay on existing dirt roads and trails.
- Speed limit is restricted to 15 miles per hour on access trails.
- Children must be 10 years of age or older to ride. Adults must directly supervise all riders under 18 years of age.
- All off-road vehicles must be in proper and safe working condition.

Safety Gear

- Protective helmets (Department of Transportation approved) must be worn by all riders and passengers. They should be properly fastened under the chin at all times.
- Eye protection must be in place when the vehicle is in motion.
- Riders should wear full-fingered gloves.
- Boots or shoes should cover entire foot and extend above ankle.
- Riders should dress in long-sleeved shirts or jacket and full-length pants.

Where to Ride

- Use only designated access routes to and from the areas.
- Ride only on existing trails within the off-road vehicle area.
- Stay within off-road vehicle boundaries.
- Except as through access to area 2, do not operate in off-road vehicle area 1 without proper authorization from the Desert Wheels Motorcycle Club.



Off-Road Vehicle Areas

Areas to Avoid

- Do not operate within 1 mile of the base riding stables with the exception of the landfill access route.
- Do not operate within 1/2 mile of the clinic, any base housing area, and any communication facility or electronic antenna.
- Vehicles will be walked or pushed across paved roadways when crossing en route to or from off-road vehicle areas.

This pamphlet provides general information, rules and precautions for off-road vehicle area users. For additional guidance, contact the Security Police, Safety or Environmental Management, depending on the nature of the questions.