

Highlights from

Utah

Off-Highway Vehicle

Utah Off-Highway Vehicle Laws and Rules



Laws and Rules



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Parks & Recreation

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1. Utah OHV Laws and Rules

Utah's off-highway vehicle laws and rules have been formulated to promote safety and protection for people, property and the environment.

The following information highlights Utah's OHV laws and rules. It answers frequently asked questions about OHV activities on public lands, roads, and trails, and provides important contact information. Riders are cautioned that additional laws and rules apply to the operation of off-highway vehicles. For more information, contact Utah State Parks and Recreation, OHV Education Office:

P.O. Box 146001, 1594 West North Temple, Suite 116
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6001

A. Definitions

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) - Any snowmobile, all-terrain type I vehicle, all-terrain type II vehicle, or motorcycle.

All-terrain type I vehicle (Type I ATV) - Any motor vehicle 52 inches or less in width, having an unladen dry weight of 800 pounds or less, traveling on three or more low-pressure tires, having a seat designed to be straddled by the operator, and designed for or capable of travel over unimproved terrain.

All-terrain type II vehicle (Type II ATV) - Any motor vehicle other than a Type I ATV, snowmobile, or motorcycle designed for or capable of travel over unimproved terrain. Does not include golf carts, any vehicle specifically designed to carry a disabled person, any vehicle not designed specifically for recreational use, or farm tractors. (DOES include go-carts, Odyssey's, sand rails, dune buggies, etc).

Motorcycle - Every motor vehicle having a saddle for the use of the operator and designed to travel on not more than two tires.

Snowmobile - Any motor vehicle designed for travel on snow or ice and steered and supported in whole or in part by skis, belts, cleats, runners or low-pressure tires.

Low-pressure tire - Any pneumatic tire six inches or more in width, designed for use on wheels with rim diameter of 12 inches or less and utilizing an operating pressure of 10 pounds per square inch or less as recommended by the manufacturer.

Motor vehicle - Every vehicle which is self-propelled.

Operate - To control the movement of, or otherwise use an off-highway vehicle.

Owner - A person, other than a person with a security interest, having a property interest or title to an off-highway vehicle and entitled to the use and possession of that vehicle.

Public land - Land owned or administered by any federal or state agency or any political subdivision of the state.

Register - The act of assigning a registration number to an off-highway vehicle.

Street or highway - The entire width between boundary lines of every way or place of whatever nature, when any part of it is open to the use of the public for vehicular travel.



B. Registration

Any OHV being operated or transported on public lands, roads or trails of the state of Utah must display a current OHV registration sticker. Dual sport off-highway motorcycles may be registered as street legal vehicles if they possess the proper safety equipment, have passed a state safety inspection, and carry the proper insurance, or they may be registered as off-highway vehicles. All OHV registrations are handled by the Utah Division of Motor Vehicles.

Non-residents bringing ATVs or motorcycles into the state may ride for 14 days without being required to register their machines in Utah, provided they are currently registered in the owner's home state. Non-resident snowmobile operators are required to purchase a Non-resident Snowmobile Permit for each snowmobile they bring into the state. These permits are available from vendors located near popular snowmobiling destinations. A complete list of vendors is available from Utah State Parks and Recreation.

OHVs used on farms and ranches, or for other agricultural purposes, may be registered as implements of husbandry, rather than as recreational vehicles. This one time registration fee is \$10. If, however, the OHV is used for recreation on public lands, roads or trails, it must also be registered for that purpose.

After receiving the appropriate registration fees, the Division of Motor Vehicles will issue registration stickers to the owner of the vehicle. These stickers must be attached to the OHV in a visible location as follows:

ATVs and motorcycles - On both sides of the gas tank or on each fork.

Snowmobiles - On both sides of the pan or hood.

All other off-highway vehicles - On the front and rear of the vehicle.

Snowmobile registrations expire annually on the last day of October. ATV and motorcycle registrations expire annually on the last day of April. Annual registration fees are currently set at \$12.50.

OHV registration money is dedicated money that is returned to the sport. Of the \$12.50 collected from each registration, \$8 is dedicated to the improvement of summer and winter OHV programs. \$2 from each registration is used for safety and responsible riding education; \$2 goes to the Division of Motor Vehicles to cover administrative costs, and \$0.50 goes to fund search and rescue efforts.

For assistance with questions concerning vehicle registrations, contact:

Utah Division of Motor Vehicles
799 North Redwood Road
Salt Lake City, UT 84116-1909
(801) 297-7780
1 (800) 368-8824

c. Age and Education Requirements

No one under eight years of age is allowed to operate any OHV on public lands, roads or trails in Utah. Resident operators eight through 15 years of age may operate, provided they possess an Education Certificate issued by Utah State Parks and Recreation. Resident operators 16 years of age or older may operate an OHV if they possess either a valid driver's license or an OHV Education Certificate.

Education Certificates are issued to anyone eight years of age or older who completes Utah State Parks and Recreation's Know Before You GO! OHV education course. Education Certificates are issued for snowmobiles, ATVs, and motorcycles. For information on this training opportunity, contact the OHV Education Office at (801) 538-7433 within the Salt Lake City area or toll-free at 1 (800) OHV-RIDE.

D. Equipment Requirements

All OHVs are required to have certain equipment in working order while being operated in Utah, including:

- Brakes sufficient to stop and hold the machine;
- A headlight and taillight while being operated between sunset and sunrise;
- A brightly colored whip flag attached to the OHV and at least eight feet off the ground while being operated in sand dune areas; and
- A muffler and spark arrestor (snowmobiles are exempt from the spark arrestor requirement).

E. Helmet Requirements

Properly fitted helmets, having at least a "DOT Approved" safety rating for motorized use are required for all OHV operators and passengers under the age of 18 years.

A properly fitting, safety rated helmet is the most important piece of safety gear available to an OHV rider. Utah State Parks and Recreation strongly encourages the use of helmets by all riders.

F. Prohibited Uses

It is illegal for any person to use an OHV in connection with acts of vandalism, harassment of wildlife or domestic animals, or in the commission of a crime. It is also illegal for anyone to operate any OHV in such a manner as to damage the environment by excessive pollution of air, land, or water, or to abuse the watershed, impair plant or animal life, or create excessive noise.



G. Operating Areas

Currently registered off-highway vehicles may only be operated on public lands, roads and trails that are signed or designated open to OHV use, or on private property with the consent of the owner or person in charge. The USDA Forest Service, the USDI Bureau of Land Management and other federal and state land managing agencies have responsibility for designating OHV opportunities on their lands. It is the operator's responsibility to know which routes are open to OHV use. Remember that congressionally designated Wilderness areas are off limits to all mechanized travel. Respect private property by obtaining permission from the landowner before entering.

To assist riders, most agencies provide travel maps indicating where OHV use is allowed. Addresses and telephone numbers of various land managing agencies are included in this booklet beginning on page 17. Always contact the local land managing authority for current trail maps and riding information.



2. Safety Tips

By following a few simple rules, OHV riders can make certain that every trip is a safe and enjoyable experience. Utah State Parks and Recreation recommends the following safe riding guidelines:

Always ride in control. Ride within your abilities and your machine's capabilities. Never attempt anything that is beyond your skill level.

Always wear the appropriate safety gear. At a minimum, this should include a helmet, shatter resistant eye protection, long sleeves, long pants, gloves, and boots that cover the ankle.

Only carry passengers if your OHV is specifically designed to do so. ATVs and off-road motorcycles are designed to be ridden by only one rider. Carrying passengers can alter the balance of the machine, causing a loss of control.

Riders under the age of 16 should be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.

Riders should be able to straddle the machine with a slight bend to the knees while both feet are on the footrests. Riding a machine that is too big is a major cause of injuries to young riders.

Always tell someone where you are going and when you will return. Provide them with a map of your intended riding area.

Be prepared for any emergency. Always carry a tool kit and spare parts, a first aid kit, and survival equipment when you ride. Carry plenty of extra food, water and fuel.

Check the weather forecast before leaving home. For winter riders, always check the avalanche forecast before venturing into the back country. Avalanche information is available from the Avalanche Forecast Center at (801) 364-1581.

Never, ever drink and ride. Alcohol and OHVs don't mix, but create a deadly and illegal combination.

3. Courtesy and Ethics

All riders must be good ambassadors for the sport. Generally, that means learning to share the trails with other users, as well as learning to take proper care of the environment where they ride. The following tips will help make you a more responsible rider.

Protect your riding privilege by staying on the trail! Avoid riding in wet meadows or on stream banks. Avoid riding on steep and erodible slopes.

Avoid riding over small trees and shrubs. Trampled vegetation not only looks bad, but also damages critical wildlife habitat and contributes to soil erosion.

Always yield the right of way to non-motorized trail users. When encountering hikers or horses on the trail, pull over and shut off your engine. Remove your helmet and let them pass out of sight before restarting.

Ride in the middle of the trail to avoid widening it. Trail widening is unsightly and expensive to repair.

Do not alter the manufacturer's muffler system. Loud exhaust systems are annoying to other users.

Honor seasonal and permanent trail closures.

When overtaking others, follow at a safe distance until they signal you to pass. Be courteous while passing. A little bump of the throttle can leave a shower of gravel or a cloud of dust and an enemy behind you.

Never harass wildlife or domestic animals that you may encounter while riding. Always view wildlife from a respectful distance.

Never litter. Always carry out what you carry in. Carry a trash bag with you to pack out other people's trash that you may come upon.

Always choose to TREAD Lightly® and protect the fragile environments where you recreate. For more information on the TREAD Lightly® program, please contact Tread Lightly, Inc., 298 24th Street, Suite 325, Ogden, UT 84401. 1(800) 966-9900.

4. Protect your Privilege—Stay on the Trail!

Riding on public lands is a privilege, not a right. Because it is a privilege, it can be taken away if riders don't do everything they possibly can to protect it.

Responsible riders know that one way to protect their riding privilege is to stay on the designated trails. They know these routes have been developed to provide them with great riding adventures. They also know that whole riding areas and trail systems can be closed because of the careless acts of irresponsible riders.

The Utah Natural Resource Coordinating Council, a partnership involving your federal and state public land managing agencies, encourages all riders to:

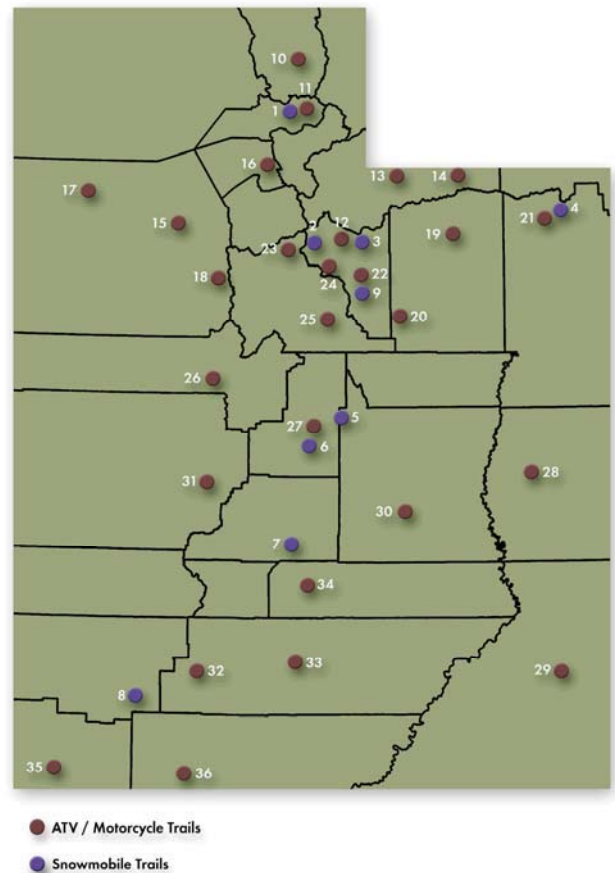
Protect Your Privilege—Stay on the Trail



5. Utah's Trails and Riding Areas

The following is a list of some of Utah's more popular OHV riding areas and trails. Since land use designations change, Utah State Parks and Recreation urges all riders to contact the appropriate agency for current travel opportunity guides and maps.

Numbers on this map correspond with the numbered trail listings on pages 11-14.



Snowmobiling Complexes

Contact: Utah State Parks and Recreation, PO Box 164001, 1594 West North Temple, Ste 116, Salt Lake City, UT 84114. Maps of each complex are available for purchase.

1. Hardware Ranch/Monte Cristo/Logan Canyon
2. Wasatch Mountain State Park
3. Mirror Lake/Mill Hollow
4. Uintah Basin
5. Scofield/Skyline Drive
6. Ephraim/Manti/Joe's Valley/Ferron
7. Fish Lake
8. Cedar Mountain/East Fork
9. Strawberry

ATV/OHM Trails/Riding Areas

10. Sinks Area (designated routes)
 - Elk Valley Loop
 - Little Bear/Worm Fence (designated routes)

Contact: Wasatch Cache National Forest, Logan Ranger District, 1500 East Highway 89, Logan, UT 84321, (435) 755-3620
11. Monte Cristo/Curtis Creek Area (designated routes)
 - Willard Peak/Skyline Trail

Contact: Wasatch Cache National Forest, Ogden Ranger District, 507 25th Street, Suite 103, Ogden, UT 84401, (801) 625-5112

12. Cedar Hollow/Taylor Fork Trail
 - Murdock Basin (designated routes)
 - Soapstone Basin (designated routes)
 - Upper Setting/Norway Flats (designated routes)

Contact: Wasatch Cache National Forest, Kamas Ranger District, 50 East Center, Kamas, UT 84036, (435) 783-4338

13. Wolverine/Lily Lake ATV Trail
 - Contact: Wasatch Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District, 1565 Hwy 150 South, Suite A, Evanston, WY 82931, (307) 789-3194

14. Deadhorse ATV Trail
 - Contact: Wasatch Cache National Forest, Mountain View Ranger District, PO Box 129, Mountain View, WY 82939, (307) 782-6555

15. Stansbury Front Trail
 - Contact: Wasatch Cache National Forest, Salt Lake Ranger District, 6944 South 3000 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84121, (801) 733-2660

16. Skyline Drive (designated routes)
 - Contact: Wasatch Cache National Forest, Salt Lake Ranger District, 6944 South 3000 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84121, (801) 733-2660

17. Knolls OHV Area
 - Contact: Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake Field Office, 2370 South 2300 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84119, (801) 977-4300

18. Five Mile Pass OHV Area
 - Contact: Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake Field Office, 2370 South 2300 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84119, (801) 977-4300

19. Yellowstone ATV Trail
 - Contact: Ashley National Forest, Duchesne Ranger District, PO Box 981, Duchesne, UT 84021, (435) 738-2482

20. Reservation Ridge/Timber Canyon (designated routes)

Contact: Ashley National Forest, Duchesne Ranger District, PO Box 981, Duchesne, UT 84021, (435) 738-2482

21. East Park/Oaks Park Trail
Old Carter Military Road Trail

Contact: Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District, 355 North Vernal Avenue, Vernal, UT 84078, (435) 789-1181

22. Strawberry OHV Trail System (designated routes)

Contact: Uinta National Forest, Heber Ranger District, 2460 South Highway 40, PO Box 190, Heber, UT 84032, (435) 654-0470

23. Mineral Basin/American Fork Canyon (designated routes)

Contact: Uinta National Forest, Pleasant Grove Ranger District, 390 North 100 East, Pleasant Grove, UT 84062, (801) 785-3563

24. Wasatch Mountain State Park (designated routes)

Contact: Wasatch Mountain State Park, PO Box 10, Midway, UT 84049, (435) 654-1791

25. White River Area (designated routes)

Monks Hollow Trail, Teat Mountain Trail
Long Hollow Trail, Knoll Hollow Trail

Contact: Uinta National Forest, Spanish Fork Ranger District, 44 West 400 North, Spanish Fork, UT 84660, (801) 798-3571

26. Little Sahara Recreation Area

Contact: Bureau of Land Management, Fillmore Field Office, 35 East 500 North, Fillmore, UT 84631, (435) 743-3100

27. Arapeen OHV Trail System

Contact: Manti-LaSal National Forest, Sanpete Ranger District, 540 North Main Street, Ephraim, UT 84627, (435) 283-4151

28. White Wash/10 Mile Wash

Contact: Bureau of Land Management, Moab Field Office, 82 East Dogwood, Moab, UT 84532, (435) 259-2100

29. Bulldog Trail, Camp Jackson Trail
Shay Ridge ATV Trail, Wagon Wheel ATV Trail

Contact: Manti-LaSal National Forest, Monticello Ranger District, 496 East Central, PO Box 820, Monticello, UT 84535, (435) 587-2041

30. San Rafael Swell

Contact: Bureau of Land Management, Price Field Office, 125 South 600 West, Price, UT 84501, (435) 636-3600

31. Paiute Trail System, Great Western Trail

Contact: Fishlake National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 115 East 900 North, Richfield, UT 84701, (435) 896-9233

32. Paunsaugunt ATV Trail, Casto Canyon Trail
Fremont ATV Trail

Contact: Dixie National Forest, Powell Ranger District, PO Box 80, 225 East Center, Panguitch, UT 84759, (435) 676-8815

33. Pine Lake OHV Trail, Poison Creek Trail

Contact: Dixie National Forest, Escalante Ranger District, 755 West Main, Escalante, UT 84726, (435) 826-5400

34. Rosebud Trail, Boulder Mountain (designated routes)

Contact: Dixie National Forest, Teasdale Ranger District, PO Box 90, 138 East Main, Teasdale, UT 84773, (435) 425-3702

35. Sand Hollow Recreation Area

Contact: Utah State Parks and Recreation, Southwest Region Office, 585 North Main, Cedar City, UT 84720, (435) 586-4497

36. Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park

Contact: Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, PO Box 95, Kanab, UT 84741, (435) 648-2800

6. Know Before You GO!

Since 1987, Utah State Parks and Recreation has offered OHV education courses through its award winning Know Before You GO! program. Courses in safe and responsible ATV, motorcycle, and snowmobile operation are offered to young riders ages eight through 15 years old. Students completing the various courses earn their Education Certificates, and become legal to operate on public lands, roads, and trails open to OHV operation. Typically, snowmobile courses are available between October and March, with ATV and motorcycle courses offered from March through October. Climate variations in the various regions of the state may change that schedule.

As a result of programs like Know Before You GO!, accident and injury rates among young OHV operators have declined dramatically in Utah and across the nation. More than 18,000 Utah youth have participated in this program, and have become safer and more responsible riders.

Experienced riders who would like to volunteer their time teach ATV, motorcycle, or snowmobile safety to children in the Know Before You GO! program are encouraged to contact Utah State Parks and Recreation OHV Education office for information on becoming certified as OHV Education Instructors.

For more information on the Know Before You GO! program, or to request registration materials, please contact the Utah State Parks and Recreation OHV Education Office, PO Box 146001, 1594 West North Temple, Ste 116, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6001. You may also contact the office by telephone at 1 (800) OHV-RIDE or 1 (800) 648-7433 or via the division website at www.stateparks.utah.gov.

7. Trip Planning Checklist

Like anything else, a safe and enjoyable OHV ride starts with proper planning. Always tell someone where you are going and when you will return. Leave a map of the area you will be riding. That way, if you need help, they will know where to look! Always inspect your machine before every trip to make certain your OHV is in top mechanical condition. Take care of your body, make sure you are in good enough physical condition to withstand the rigors of OHV recreation.

In addition to the above suggestions, carrying a few basic items will also help in the event of an emergency. The following checklist will help you remember the items you need to make every trip fun and safe.

- Plenty of extra water and food
- Extra fuel and oil
- A set of basic tools that fit your machine
- A basic first aid kit
- Extra spark plugs
- A flashlight
- A tow strap or rope
- Waterproof matches
- Duct tape and electrical tape
- A tire repair kit
- A map of your riding area, a compass, and a GPS receiver
- Your cell phone or two-way radios
- Your camera to record your adventures!

For extended trips, you might also want to consider adding the following:

- Spare throttle and brake cables
- Brake fluid
- Master links for chain repair
- A quality survival kit
- A spare tire or tube

Practice the six Ps of success . . . **Proper Prior Preparation Prevents Poor Performance!**

8. Utah's Public Land Managers

For further information on OHV riding opportunities on public lands, please contact the following agencies:

A. USDA Forest Service

Ashley National Forest

355 North Vernal Avenue
 Vernal, Utah 84078
 (435) 789-1181

Duchesne Ranger District (435) 738-2482
 Flaming Gorge Ranger District (435) 784-3445
 Roosevelt Ranger District (435) 722-5018
 Vernal Ranger District (435) 789-1181

Dixie National Forest

1789 North Wedgewood Lane
 Cedar City, UT 84720
 (435) 865-3700

Pine Valley Ranger District (435) 652-3100
 Cedar City Ranger District (435) 865-3200
 Powell Ranger District (435) 676-9300
 Escalante Ranger District (435) 826-5400
 Teasdale Ranger District (435) 425-9500

Fishlake National Forest

115 East 900 North
 Richfield, UT 84701
 (435) 896-9233

Fillmore Ranger District (435) 743-5721
 Loa Ranger District (435) 836-2811
 Beaver Ranger District (435) 438-2436
 Richfield Ranger District (435) 896-9233

Manti-LaSal National Forest

599 West Price River Drive
 Price, UT 84501
 (435) 637-2817

Ferron Ranger District (435) 384-2372
 Moab Ranger District (435) 259-7155
 Price Ranger District (435) 637-2817
 Monticello Ranger District (435) 587-2041
 Sanpete Ranger District (435) 283-4151

Uinta National Forest

88 West 100 North
 Provo, UT 84603
 (801) 342-5100

Heber Ranger District (435) 654-0470
 Pleasant Grove Ranger District (801) 785-3563
 Spanish Fork Ranger District (801) 798-3571
 Provo Ranger District (801) 377-5780

Wasatch-Cache National Forest

8230 Federal Building, 128 South State,
 Salt Lake City, UT 84138
 (801) 524-3900

Salt Lake Ranger District (801) 733-2660
 Kamas Ranger District (435) 783-4338
 Evanston Ranger District (307) 789-3194
 Mountain View Ranger District (307) 782-6555
 Ogden Ranger District (801) 625-5112
 Logan Ranger District (435) 755-3620

B. USDI Bureau of Land Management

Salt Lake Field Office

2370 South 2300 West
 Salt Lake City, UT 84119
 (801) 977-4300

Cedar City Field Office

176 East D.L. Sargent Drive
 Cedar City, UT 84720
 (435) 586-2401

St. George Field Office

345 East Riverside Drive
 St. George, UT 84790
 (435) 688-3200

Kanab Field Office

318 North 100 East
 Kanab, UT 84741
 (435) 644-4600

Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument

180 West 300 North
 Kanab, UT 84741
 (435) 644-4300

Escalante Field Office

PO Box 225
 Escalante, UT 84726
 (435) 826-5499

Richfield Field Office

150 East 900 North
 Richfield, UT 84701
 (435) 896-1500

Henry Mountain Field Station

PO Box 99
 Hanksville, UT 84734
 (435) 542-3461

Fillmore Field Office

35 East 500 North
 Fillmore, UT 84631
 (435) 743-3100

Moab Field Office

82 East Dogwood
 Moab, UT 84532
 (435) 259-2100

Price Field Office

125 South 600 West
 Price, UT 84501
 (435) 636-3600

Monticello Field Office

435 North Main Street
 Monticello, Utah 84535
 (435) 587-1500

Vernal Field Office

170 South 500 East
 Vernal, Utah 84078
 (435) 781-4400

c. Utah State Parks and Recreation

Utah State Parks and Recreation

PO Box 146001
 1594 West North Temple, Ste 116
 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6001
 (801) 538-7220
www.stateparks.utah.gov

Southwest Region Office

585 North Main Street
 Cedar City, UT 84720
 (435) 586-4497

Northeast Region Office

777 West SR 319, Box 3
 Heber, UT 84032
 (435) 649-9109

Northwest Region Office

Redwood Road
 Salt Lake City, UT 84116
 (801) 533-5127

Southeast Region Office

1165 South Hwy 191, Suite 7
 Moab, UT 84532-3062
 (435) 259-3750

Utah State Parks mission . . .

Enhancing the Quality of Life in Utah through Parks, People and Programs

The Utah Department of Natural Resources receives federal aid and prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin or disability. For information or complaints regarding discrimination, contact the Executive Director, Utah Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 145610, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5610 or Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 1801 L Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20507.