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P-28 – Off-Road Vehicle Use in Unincorporated Areas of Maricopa County

This ordinance is intended to prevent off-road vehicle use in unpaved areas that are not designated as open to the public.

What You Can Do:

You can use an off-road vehicle on:

- designated trails or trails marked as “open”
- service roads
- any other property dedicated or otherwise reserved for public or private street uses, as evidenced by a recorded document, or having thereon a public easement for such use

What You Cannot Do:

You cannot use any vehicle on unpaved public or private property within the unincorporated areas of Maricopa County without lawful authority. Unincorporated areas of Maricopa County are areas that are not legally part of a city or town, sometimes referred to as “county islands”.

Lawful authority can be determined or granted in several ways. You may find the status of property access in an order, rule or regulation from a government land management agency; a current map approved by such agency; proper sign posting on the land; or by written permission from a public or private land owner.

Cities and towns within Maricopa County also have codes or ordinances that prevent off-road vehicle use in undesignated areas. If you choose to operate a vehicle on unpaved property in cities and towns (incorporated areas), please observe the local codes/ordinances that restrict vehicle operations on unpaved surfaces.

Penalties:

A violation of this ordinance is considered a Class 3 misdemeanor and may result in the issuance of a fine and/or mandatory participation in eight to 24 hours of a community restoration course.

For more information about off-road vehicle use, please visit the following websites:

Arizona State Parks: azstateparks.com/ohv

Arizona Game and Fish Department: azgfd.com/OHV

National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council: nohvcc.org

Arizona State Land Department: azland.gov/programs/natural/recreation_permit.htm