# West Yellowstone OHV/ATV MAP • SOUTH

MONTANA

West Yellowstone/Island Park OHV Trail Map - 2023

Roads Open to Highway Legal

Signed Snowmobile Junctions

Great Western Trail



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# West Yellowstone

· Rozeman

Montana

WEST YELLOWSTONE ☼



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# **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

The purpose of this map is to provide useful information that will help visitors best navigate the motorized routes of the West Yellowstone and Island Park areas for visitor enjoyment. The map also shows information regarding trailheads, campgrounds, non-motorized routes, and service information listed in the Legend.

Travel restrictions in the West Yellowstone and Island Park areas are subject to change in response to future travel planning decisions. This map will be updated to best reflect conditions for visitor convenience and enjoyment. This is not a travel plan map. Official travel maps and other detailed information on travel restrictions are available from the Hebgen Lake Ranger Station in West Yellowstone Montana or the Island Park and Ashton Ranger Stations in Idaho. It is each visitor's responsibility to understand and obey all travel restrictions as well as posted signs. Compliance with all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations is your responsibility.

This map shows popular routes in the West Yellowstone and Island Park areas. Not all roads and trails are identified. The map provides information on routes that may be more popular than other routes because they provide better loop riding, access to destinations, and scenic opportunities. This map does not display

Within the West Yellowstone and Island Park areas routes are identified by a vehicle type that is compatible with the route width and most capable of negotiating the route – with a rider/driver possessing the skill required. The map does not identify difficulty or skill

requirements of motorized routes. Within the West Yellowstone & Island Park areas, most motorized routes are open to

wheeled-vehicles 50 inches wide or less unless they are motorcycle only or non-motorized trails. Check with the Forest Service ranger stations for Travel Management restrictions.

# **TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY CLOSURES**

Designated roads, trails, and areas may be subject to temporary, emergency closures to protect the life, health, or safety of Forest Service visitors or the natural or cultural resources in these areas. On National Forest lands, violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both (16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559 and 3571).

#### **CROSS-COUNTRY TRAVEL** BY MOTORIZED WHEELED VEHICLES

Cross-country travel by motorized, wheeled vehicles has been prohibited on Montana and Idaho National Forest System lands since 2001. Wheeled motor vehicles may be parked off the edge of a route on National Forest

lands when it is safe to do so without causing damage to resources or facilities, unless prohibited by state law or posted regulation. When you park, stay as close to the route as possible, while ensuring that everyone can exit and enter your vehicle safely, that your vehicle and trailer are

not impeding traffic along the route, and that you can safely unload your trail

#### vehicles without entering the road right-of-way. DISPERSED CAMPING

There are a number of camping opportunities in the West Yellowstone and Island Park areas. Most of the vehicle camping, however, is in 'dispersed' or undeveloped sites near the roads. Camp site selection must be completed by non-motorized means, and travel to the site must be by the most direct route. Please use existing routes whenever possible to reduce potential resource damage.

# **OHV SAFETY**

Review this checklist before you ride to ensure a safe trip. • Never Ride Alone! Ride with a partner.

• Be certain each rider has a map and knows where the group is headed. • Before leaving the trailhead, choose rest stops and meeting places for your

group, in case you become separated. • Stay on the correct route if you become separated, and let the group find you. • Check that your OHV is in proper working condition; all fluids are topped off; there are no loose or broken parts; and that your spark arrestor is in good

condition and has not been modified. Be prepared for vehicle break downs. • Ride within the limits of your skill and endurance.

• Know how to properly operate and control your vehicle.

of skill and judgment! Ride sober!

• Maintain a safe following distance. • Keep headlights on at all times so others can see you.

• Provide direct parental supervision for riders under the age of 13. • Complete a rider safety course before operating an ATV or motorcycle. • Never carry passengers on an OHV unless it's designed for that purpose.

• Carry basic tools and survival gear, including plenty of drinking water. • Wear appropriate protective gear including a helmet, eye protection, long-sleeved shirt, sturdy pants, over-the-ankle boots, and gloves. Dress for the weather, but never wear anything loose that catch in wheels! • Helmet - A helmet is the single most important piece of protection that can be worn. • Eye protection - Always wear goggles or a bubble visor shield.

• Do not use drugs or alcohol - riding a motorcycle or ATV requires a high degree

• Gloves - A good pair of gloves is essential. • Boots - It is important to have a pair of strong, over-the-ankle boots, with heels.

• Shirt or jacket - Wear a long-sleeved shirt or jacket when riding for protection. • Pants - Wear long pants to protect your legs.

### **RIDE RESPONSIBLY AND ETHICALLY**

# CARING FOR PEOPLE, WILDLIFE, AND THE LAND

Before you leave, check weather conditions and be prepared. Trail and road conditions can change depending on elevation, terrain, soil types, and weather. Drive responsibly and stay in control. Be honest about your skill level and other people's skill levels. Plan your trip based on the lowest skill level. Supervise children on OHVs carefully and set a good example. Ensure children have been trained in OHV safety and teach them by your example respect for

**Stay on the trail**. Use switchbacks rather then cutting them. While climbing hills avoid wheel spin, and avoid brake-sliding when descending steep grades and switch backs to prevent gouging of the trail, which leads to greater water

erosion damage. **Don't highmark trail or road embankments.** Riding on the embankments loosens soil and removes vegetation that may cause the embankment to erode onto the road or trail creating hazards and increasing maintenance costs. **Respect private land.** Please do not access these lands if it is gated or signed. Do not destroy property or take anything that does not belong to you.

**Ride quietly.** Respect other users as well as the wildlife along your route.

Ride slowly. Ride with a minimum of throttle and low RPMs, particularly in areas of camps, campgrounds, in areas of poor visibility, and in areas where there are many trail and road users.

View wildlife from a distance. You will have a longer viewing time and cause less stress to animals if you view them with binoculars instead of chasing them with your vehicle. Chasing and harassing wildlife is both unethical and illegal. **Stay on the trail and road when crossing streams.** If a trail or road travels through riparian areas and during spring conditions, take it easy and don't spin

**Leave gates as you find them.** If you open it, close it immediately. Never leave a closed gate open. Respect livestock and ride past slowly, giving them time to

• Always supervise your children when they are riding. • Camping areas are not riding areas. Riding in, near or around campgrounds can impact soils and plants and is disrespectful of other campers.

• Riding OHVs in campgrounds is prohibited. Ride on designated motorized routes only! • Anyone under the age of 12 may operate an OHV on unpaved roads if

accompanied by an adult and the motorcycle or quadricycle is operated in a reasonable and prudent manner. • Always be sure your children use proper safety gear.

• Helmets can prevent and reduce the severity of head injuries. Helmets must meet DOT or Snell standards and be worn by those under 18 who operate or ride a motorcycle or quadricycle on streets or highways (MCA 61-9-417). Helmets are strongly recommended for ALL OHV operators and riders.