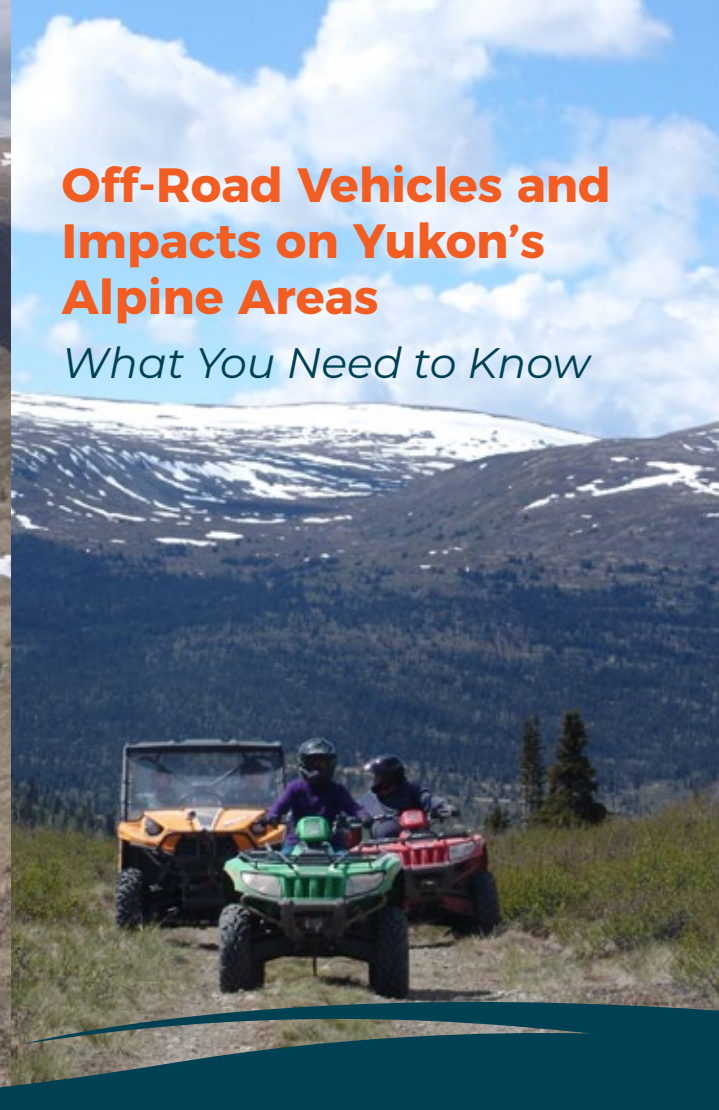


Please keep ORVs on existing trails. It is all of our responsibility to take care of our wilderness areas.

For more information on Off-Road Vehicle Management Areas and the related regulations in Yukon, please go to:

yukon.ca/orv-management-areas



Off-Road Vehicles and Impacts on Yukon's Alpine Areas

What You Need to Know



Contact:

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**Yukon**



In 2021, the Government of Yukon passed a regulation to manage the use of ORVs in specific areas to protect environmentally sensitive lands, including the territory's alpine areas.

Yukon's Off-Road Vehicle Management Area for the Alpine – What You Need to Know:

- With the regulation, a management area was created on Yukon's Public lands that restricts the use of off-road vehicles in alpine areas over 1,400 metres.
- The alpine ORV management area allows riders to continue to use existing trails that were in place in alpine areas as of January 28, 2021, but not to create new trails or travel across areas where no trails exist.
- Find out more information about ORV management areas including the alpine management area, here: yukon.ca/orv-management-areas

Off-Road Vehicle Impacts on Alpine Soil & Vegetation

Soil in alpine areas is typically shallow and vegetation growth is especially slow because of the severe winters and short growing season. These factors mean the alpine is especially sensitive to disturbance. The effects of ORVs can be drastic and long-lasting.

ATVs may dig ruts into the soil and uproot lichens, which can take decades to regrow. Lichens help control erosion in windy alpine areas and are also an important food source for caribou, Dall sheep and mountain goats.

Permafrost is frozen ground that remains at or below 0°C over at least two consecutive winters and through intervening summers. Soil removed or disturbed by ORVs can result in permafrost thawing, increasing erosion and creating long lasting damage.

ORVs may also spread the seeds of invasive plant species into alpine areas which can result in loss of native species and food sources for wildlife.

Respect the Wilderness

The Yukon backcountry is shared by many outdoor enthusiasts. While it may not seem that one person makes much of an impact, the effects of everyone are cumulative and they add up. We all have a responsibility to preserve and protect our outdoor spaces.

Stay on existing hard-bottomed trails to avoid damaging habitat.

Be aware of wildlife, especially during sensitive times of the year.

For example, caribou are most sensitive to disturbance in the alpine during the calving and rutting periods in May/June and October. Sheep are sensitive to disturbance during the lambing period in June and July.

The nests of birds in alpine regions are built on the ground and are also susceptible to disturbance or destruction by ORVs.

There are also other laws related to off-road vehicle use that help protect wildlife and habitat in Yukon. Under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*, it is illegal to harass any wildlife or use a vehicle to chase, drive, flush, exhaust or fatigue wildlife for the purpose of hunting or to assist another person hunting.

