

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Off-Highway Vehicle Strategic Plan available

A comprehensive study conducted by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) has resulted in the 2012-2016 Off-Highway Vehicle Strategic Plan which is now available to the public.

“The plan helps gauge the needs of OHV riders and how to best attain those needs,” Erik Dietrich, NDPRD Motorized Recreation Coordinator says.

The study was conducted in early 2012 to uncover OHV riding trends and additional information. Riding enthusiasts and stakeholder groups were surveyed to obtain this information which is the basis for the strategic plan.

Key areas identified by the strategic plan and outlined in the executive summary include:

- **Development of use areas:** Survey respondents indicated the need for more public riding trails. The plan considers possible leadership roles and funding opportunities for the creation of trails.
- **Training and safety education:** While training and safety education has been successful, there is a need for more trainers and additional equipment for hands-on training. An overall trend is an increase in OHV riding in North Dakota.
- **Laws and enforcement:** There are several issues involved, but topping the list is property damage due to trespassing. Safety education and training is important since well-informed riders are less likely to break laws.
- **Communications:** This area is critical in facilitating growth in the future. Conventional media along with the fast growing social media are integral to an overall communications flow. Development of a volunteer and club network is instrumental in filling the gaps for development of trail areas and training.

A copy of the 2012-2016 Off-Highway Vehicle Strategic Plan is available online at [www.parkrec.nd.gov/information/department/attachments/p-ohv-strategicplan.pdf](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov/information/department/attachments/p-ohv-strategicplan.pdf) or by contacting the NDPRD at 701-328-5357.