

For Public Distribution

2010-2012 WISCONSIN Utility Terrain Vehicle Pilot Program



For more information contact the DNR at 1-888-936-7463 or
<http://dnr.wi.gov/contact/>

Visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/LR/UTV/grants.html>

Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Pilot Program

What Is the UTV Pilot Program?

The UTV Pilot Program replaces the previous Lightweight Utility Vehicle (LUV) Pilot Program. The program will run from late March 2010 through June 30, 2012. Any county in the state may elect to participate in the UTV Pilot Program by passing a resolution and filing it with the DNR and all effected law enforcement agencies. If the county successfully passes a resolution and a township within that county does not wish to participate in the UTV Pilot Program, the township will need to pass a resolution opting out of the program. The county or municipality may designate ATV trails, routes and areas that are open to UTVs. The DNR and Federal agencies may also elect to participate in the program and designate which ATV trails are open to UTVs. Initial contact with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) revealed that they will most likely not be allowing all UTVs to operate on off-road vehicle trails on National Forest lands. The USFS has a rule that restricts off-road vehicle width to a maximum of 50 inches. The only UTV that is 50 inches or less and permitted on open trails on National Forest lands is the Polaris RZR.

See the entire UTV Pilot law at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2009/data/SB448hst.html>

What is a UTV?

These vehicles have several different names including LUVs, utility vehicles, side by sides and recreational off-highway vehicles. Utility-type models include Kubota and the Kawasaki Mule; newer, sport-type models include the Polaris RZR and the Kawasaki Teryx.

Here are the basic specifications:

- not a golf cart. Golf cart means a vehicle whose speed attainable in one mile does not exceed 20 miles per hour on a paved, level surface, and that is designed and intended to convey one or more persons and equipment to play the game of golf in an area designated as a golf course.
- not a low speed vehicle. Low-speed vehicle means a low-speed vehicle, as defined in 49 CFR 571.3, that satisfies the equipment standards under 49 CFR 571.500 and that was originally manufactured to meet the applicable equipment standards under 49 CFR 571.500.

Originally manufactured with the following:

- between 900 lbs and 1,999 lbs.
- four or more low pressure tires
- cargo or dump box
- steering wheel, tail light, brake light, 2 headlights, seat belts or similar device.
- max width of 65 inches
- seating for at least 2 occupants, non-straddled seats
- a roll bar or similar device

How Do I Register My UTV?

UTVs participating in the pilot program will be able to register for Public Use ATV Registration. Decals will have to be displayed the same as ATVs. UTVs may not register for Private Use or Private Use – Agricultural. (See **Agricultural Use** for more info.)

UTV owners may register their machines in person at a DNR office or by mailing the ATV Registration Application. UTVs cannot be registered at dealerships or over the internet. Special procedures need to take place and can only be completed by DNR personnel.

What Are The Laws?

UTVs are considered ATVs and must follow all ATV regulations while operating on ATV trails, routes and areas designated as open to UTVs under the UTV Pilot Program.

One regulation unique to UTVs is the minimum age of a UTV operator is set at 16. Operators are not required to have a driver's license, but operators at least age 16 and born on or after January 1, 1988 are required to hold a valid ATV safety certificate. Persons under age 16 may not operate a UTV under the UTV Pilot Program.

Where Can I Operate?

Contact your County ATV trail coordinator or County Forestry Department to see if your county has elected to participate in the UTV Pilot Program.

Agricultural Use

Effective March 26, 2010, a new law change in the motor vehicle laws allows the use of Lightweight Utility Vehicles on roadways and shoulders during agricultural operations, with certain restrictions.

Note: This law is not part of the UTV Pilot Program and not a DNR regulation. For more information, view the entire law change at:

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2009/data/acts/09Act157.pdf>

Questions should be directed to the Department of Transportation.

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