

ORV Survey Resource Information

Summary Statement By Trails Only Yukon Association

The Yukon urgently needs proactive ORV regulations to relieve pressures on the territory's wildlife and safeguard the ecological integrity of our alpine, wetlands and backcountry. Now is the time to enact ambitious ORV regulations.

The creation of ORV Management Areas, (ORVMAs) as proposed in the February 2019 "Regulating Off Road Vehicles in the Yukon" document, are important and we support their creation.

However, ORV Management Areas should not be the Yukon's sole regulatory tool. ORVMAs do not address the on going territory - wide impacts from ORVs, such as damage to sensitive wetland, alpine ecosystems, and the proliferation of trails in the backcountry.

While individual ORVMAs are being created, a comprehensive approach by the Government of Yukon should also:

- Restrict the cutting of new trails, by regulating trail width using the *Territorial Lands Act*.
- Identify appropriate trails as Designated Access Routes with clear signage indicating beginnings and endings.
- Create ORV Management Areas for all the Yukon's alpine using elevation benchmarks.

We are encouraged that the Government of Yukon proposes to immediately designate one or more area as an ORV Management Area. YG must also provide resources and political will to hasten ORV management throughout the territory. The continued establishment of new ORV Management Areas and other regulatory tools is critical to protecting the Yukon's wildlife and fragile ecosystems.

Focused Response to "Regulating Off-Road Vehicles in Yukon"

We advocate for a simple, transparent process with clear guidelines and short timelines. This will benefit all Yukoners

We Advocate For:

1.) Nomination process to be simple, efficient and transparent.

(this may involve a template that is clear and practical)

*** concern that without this, the rest will flounder**

2.) Rules and regulations within an ORV management area be established in a simple, time efficient process.

Why: a.) fear that a complicated, many faceted process will result in a system that is bogged down in bureaucracy and delays. Delays in implementation will lead to habitat loss, displacement and dislocation of wildlife

* (use management toolbox already in place in other jurisdictions)

*** Management tools:**

- 1.) Designated Trails
- 2.) Elevation restrictions
- 3.) Non- motorized zones
- 4.) Seasonal Closures
- 5.) Corridors

3.) Management tools to be used within designated ORV management areas should be clear, simple, and as consistent as possible across all areas.

Why: a.) important to make these areas as similar as possible in terms of the management tools being used to avoid loopholes and confusion.

4.) Large ORV Management Areas should be nominated in the first intake.

Why: a.) previous consultations input - public wants pro-active, comprehensive approach and government is on record as supporting this

- b.) Establishing large ORV management areas prevents piecemeal process in which ORVs simply move on to an area with no protection.

5.) Areas nominated should incorporate Game Management Zone boundaries.

Why: a.) they are legally defined administrative boundaries

b.) most of public already understands these zones

c.) keeps it simple - don't have to create something new

d.) enables effective enforcement

** this does not preclude possibility of other options such as alpine elevation designations, territorial parks, the Peel or other existing administrative boundaries.*

We also advocate for measures to stop trail building and incursions of ORVs into areas not yet accessed while ORVMAs are being created.

Why: the impending creation of ORVMAs can result in a frenzy of trail building