



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# ATV Use on *Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge*

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are allowed on Refuge big game hunts if you have a hunt permit from Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge. ATVs need to stay on Refuge roads and trails, unless there are *special mitigating* circumstances. ATVs need to adhere to the Texas Traffic Laws imposed by the Department of Public Safety.

A person may not operate an ATV on public property unless the person holds a safety training certificate. A person must display the certificate at the request of any law enforcement officer.

A. An ATV operated on public property must be equipped with:

1. a brake system maintained in good operating condition, and,
2. an adequate muffler system in good working condition, and,
3. a USDA Forest Service qualified spark arrester.

B. An ATV operated on public property must display a lighted headlight and tail light:

1. during the period from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, and,

2. at any time when visibility is reduced because of insufficient light or atmospheric conditions.

C. An ATV may not be operated on public property if:

1. the vehicle has an exhaust system that has been modified with a cutout, bypass, or similar device, or,
2. the spark arrester has been removed or modified.

A person may not operate, ride, or be carried on an ATV on public property unless the person wears a safety helmet that complies with the U.S. Dept. of Transportation standards and eye protection. A person may not carry a passenger on an ATV on public property.

According to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, "ATVs may not be driven on public roads unless the driver is:

- a farmer or a rancher traveling no more than 25 miles,
- a public utility worker, or,
- a law enforcement officer.

"ATVs driven on a public road must have a triangular orange flag on top of an eight-foot pole attached to the back of it."

Despite all of the above, we encourage ATVs as long as they are used in a manner that does not disturb other hunters (noise) during prime hunting hours, and people don't drive them off trails and roads.

### For Additional Information Contact:

Refuge Manager  
Balcones Canyonlands  
National Wildlife Refuge  
24518 FM 1431, Box 1  
Marble Falls, Texas 78654  
512/339-9432  
512/267-6530 Fax  
[www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/balcones/](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/balcones/)

Texas State Relay Service  
1 800/735-2989

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