

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grants

Off-Highway Vehicle Program Scoring Criteria

Each criterion for a project will receive a base score on a scale of 0-20, (20 being the best). The total application score will be the sum of all criteria scores and be based on a possible total of 110 points. FWP staff will review and rank grant applications with input from the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Committee (OHVAC).

1. **Access:** The degree to which the project site is accessible to the public and improves existing trails or linkages between existing trails, trail systems, greenways, scenic byways, or other natural, cultural, historical and recreational areas.
2. **Benefit To Most:** The degree to which the project provides for a recreational opportunity to a wide variety of individuals and the greatest number of compatible recreation purposes, or unique innovative corridor-sharing techniques.
3. **Partnerships:** The project creates collaborative efforts between Government Agencies and local OHV organizations, OHV dealers, economic development committees, etc., to improve and promote responsible recreational OHV use in Montana. Project applications with documented cooperative effort will be awarded a maximum of 10 points and those with no such collaboration will be docked a full 10 points.
4. **Safety and Ethics Education:** The degree to which the project supports OHV rider education and ethics pertinent to the Montana OHV Program. Education should be primarily aimed toward, but not limited to new riders from young children to adults. In addition, the project will be assessed by how well it meets the needs of OHV education and successfully outlines the educational goals for the project. Information regarding the educational opportunity needs to be provided to or accessible to the general public.
5. **Resource Enhancement and Protection:** The degree to which the project enhances and/or protects natural resources; considers avoidance of problem areas or mitigates unavoidable damage to the resources. Examples include such things as construction of boardwalks/bridges over wet areas or streams and other critical wildlife habitat to reduce impacts from OHV use, reclamation of unauthorized trails, etc.
6. **Trail Safety and Maintenance:** The degree to which the project addresses “user hazards” on the trail and the level to which it provides an outline of how these hazards will be eliminated and trails will be maintained to provide a high quality experience for trail users.