

# “Mud-bogging” Leaves Lasting Scars

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests & Prineville Bureau of Land Management



**Thank you  
for your  
help!**

**Report illegal  
off-road use to  
Deschutes County  
Sheriff's Office  
at:  
541-388-0170**

**Legally drive on  
a surface that  
won't be  
damaged**

**For  
Off-Highway  
Vehicle  
Information  
Call:  
541-383-5300  
or  
383-4010(recording)  
or  
Visit our web site  
at [www.  
fs.fed.us/r6/  
centraloregon/  
cohvops](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/cohvops)  
or [www.  
treadlightly.org](http://www.treadlightly.org)**

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## What is “Mud Bogging”?

It's when people take their motor vehicles off-road **ILLEGALLY** to do some “hill climbing,” “mud-bogging,” or “cutting some cookies.” It may be an individual testing the limits of their new 4X4 or it may be a large group.

## So what's the big deal?

This activity can cause significant, long-lasting damage to public lands. Soil erosion, rutted and compacted soil, plants damaged or killed, harmful impacts to fish and wildlife and visual scars are often the result. Many alpine meadows, hillsides and riparian areas bear these scars.



## When does this occur?

The most damage is done when the ground is soft.

### **It can get expensive and result in:**

- ★ injuries
- ★ vehicle damage
- ★ legal costs associated with tickets and going to court

Judges have ordered individuals to:

- ★ pay fines
- ★ pay restoration costs of the damaged area
- ★ perform community service

The maximum

sentence for these activities is \$5,000 and six months in jail plus additional restoration costs.

## Help stop this damage

- ★ Be a responsible Off-highway vehicle user
- ★ Venture off-road only where it's legal
- ★ When you come upon illegal off-roading or if you find evidence of recent illegal off-roading, call the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office at: **(541) 388-0170**. They will need as much information as possible, including:
  - ★ Vehicle description (license numbers, color, make/model/year)
  - ★ Number and description of people
  - ★ Time, place and direction of travel
- ★ If you know someone who does this, you can inform them of the damage they are causing or report them.



**Law enforcement patrols increase in vulnerable areas  
in an effort to stop people before they cause damage**

