

## What You Can Do To Help

You can still enjoy using your off road vehicles and incorporate easy steps to help reduce harmful effects to the environment. As a responsible driver it is important to protect and preserve the environment that is enjoyed, so that it can be enjoyed for many years to come.

### Simple and Easy Tips to Consider Before Taking your Vehicle Off Road

- Ride on presently established roads
- Avoid erodible soils such as steep inclines, these areas are easily eroded
- Be mindful of wildlife habitats and vegetation
- Investing in muffler systems and spark arrestors can reduce noise and chemical dispersion and ignition
- Avoid riding near stream, springs, and natural bodies of water.
- Dispose of all trash, litter and automotive hazardous materials (oil and gasoline) properly

*For more ways on how to help or on the disposal of automotive waste please contact the Soboba Environmental Department*



Image from: SOBOBA Rides

*The job of the environmental department is to protect, restore, & enhance natural resources on Soboba reservation for all tribal members past, present, and future.*

*Soboba Environmental Department*

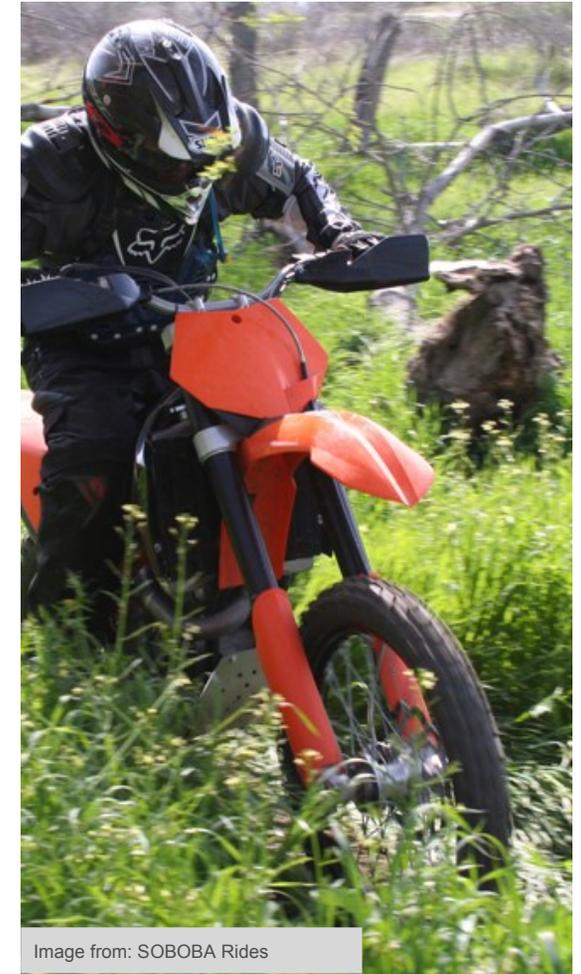


Image from: SOBOBA Rides

## OFF ROAD

ENVIROMENTALLY CONCIIOUS

Spring 2016

Provided by the Soboba Environmental Department





Image from: SOBOBA Rides

## What is Off-Roading?

Off-roading is anytime you use a vehicle for the purposes of cross-country travel on land, water, sand, marsh, or other natural terrain. There are a wide variety of off road vehicles or ORV's such as dirt bikes, ATV's, UTV's, dune buggies, rock crawlers, and even modified trucks.

One of the most enjoyable parts of going off road is the sense of adventure and excitement of riding through unexplored wilderness.

But riders must ask themselves, if enjoying the environment is such a perk while riding, do they have a responsibility to protect and preserve it?

The answer is **YES!** Off road enjoyment comes with a great responsibility of educating yourself on the effects it has on the environment and use that knowledge to incorporate conservation strategies while still enjoying off road activities.

### Where is it Happening

Right now, the biggest area of concern is riding on not presently established roads within the reservation. Doing this can cause damage to sensitive undisturbed open land, streams, creeks, hillsides, highly vegetated areas, and animal habitats.

## What is the Damage?

### SOIL

One of the biggest problems caused by ORV's is substantial erosion to the soil which can cause:

- Soil Instability
- Nutrient Deficiencies leading to high mortality in native vegetation
- Soil compaction causing poor water uptake by surface soil decreasing water infiltration and groundwater recharge

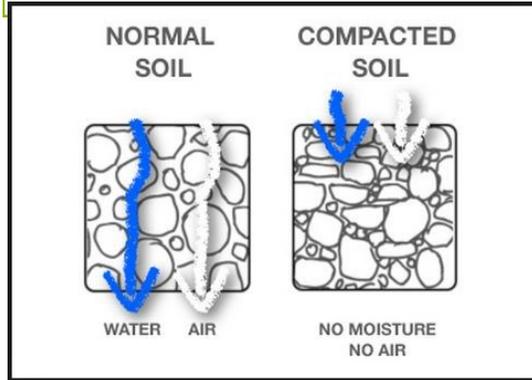


Image from: Landscaperesource.com

The weight of the off road vehicle and friction from the tires causes soil to be displaced as dust and underlying soil to be compacted so that the particles of sediment are too tightly pressed together that water cannot penetrate deep beyond the surface.



Image from: azwild.org

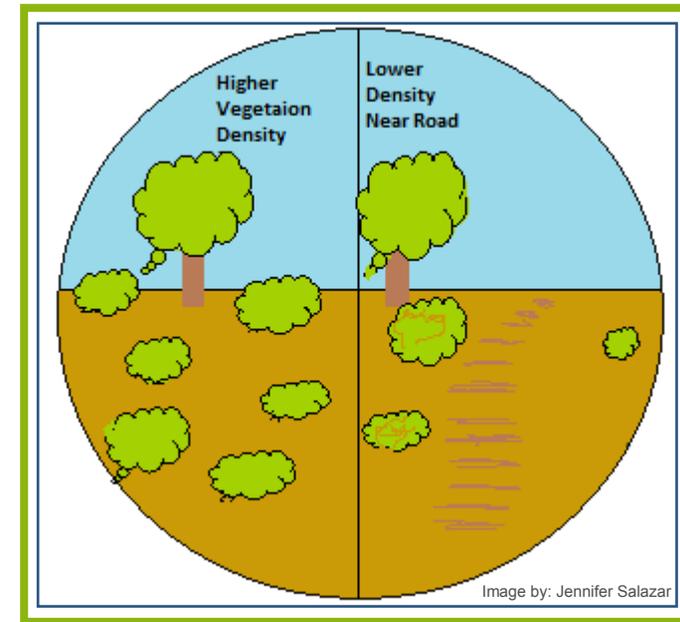


Image by: Jennifer Salazar

### Wildlife and Habitats

Wildlife populations and habitats can also be adversely affected by driving off preexisting roads. Wildlife tends to seek refuge in habitats normally undisturbed and uninhabited by people, riding in these areas can distress and physically cause death to many native species.

### Pollution

- Expulsion of hot particles of carbon and soot onto surrounding soil, vegetation, streams, and springs
- Improper disposal of oil and gas can contaminate the soil and water sources making it not fit for human or wildlife consumption
- Trash and litter can be brought to pristine areas and may not degrade for decades

### Contact Us

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