

## OHVs in Capitol Reef National Park

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National Park System regulations promulgated in 1987 provide that “traffic and the use of vehicles within a park area are governed by State law.” In 2008, the Utah legislature enacted S.B. 181, allowing off-highway vehicles (OHVs) on certain public highways. Declaring that the operation of OHVs in National Parks conflicted with management requirements prioritizing conservation, the National Park Service then issued orders through the park superintendent’s compendium prohibiting the use of OHVs on roads within the boundary of Capitol Reef National Park.

Senator Lee introduced a bill to authorize the use of off-highway vehicles in certain areas of Capitol Reef National Park, Utah. Several major roads within the national park can only be travelled by 4x4 high clearance vehicles and provide access to some of the park’s most significant features. This bill allows recreational vehicles designed for rugged terrain to operate on certain designated roads, increasing access by more people to these beautiful sites.

### Bill Specifics

- Authorizes the use of off-highway vehicles on the following roads within Capitol Reef National Park:
  - Burr Trail Road
  - Cathedral Road
  - Hartnet Road
  - Highway 24
  - Notom Bullfrog Road
  - Polk Creek Road
  - Oil Well Bench Road
  - Baker Ranch Road
  - South Desert Overlook Road
  - Temple of the Sun and Moon Road
  - Gypsum Sinkhole Road
  - Sulphur Creek Road
- State motor vehicle law (including off-highway vehicles) shall apply to covered roads.