



Department of Administration
Acting Commissioner Amanda Holland



State of Alaska



Department of Public Safety
Acting Commissioner Kelly Howell

Synopsis: Proposed Regulations Allowing ATVs and Snow Machines on Roads

Alaska has one of the nation's highest per-capita ownership rates of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-highway vehicles (OHVs), snow machines, side-by-sides, utility terrain vehicles (UTVs), and all-purpose vehicles. These vehicles are extremely popular with Alaskans, affording them the opportunity to engage in hunting, fishing, and subsistence activities, as well as motorized recreation.

Arizona, Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming provide owners of all-purpose vehicles the option to make their machines street-legal and operable on public roads.

To provide Alaskans the greatest opportunity to safely and affordably travel throughout the state, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Department of Administration (DOA) have proposed regulations that together would allow Alaskans to legally operate their ATVs or snowmobiles on roads with speed limits of 45 mph or less.

Vehicle owners would be required to follow all current applicable statutes and regulations while operating on roadways, including being properly licensed and insured. The proposed regulations also would require vehicles to be equipped with safety equipment—including headlights, brakes, mufflers, and brake lights—while operating on public roads. Local governments would be empowered to opt out of the provisions for roads within their jurisdiction.

The regulations have been publicly posted online and are open to public comment:

The Department of Public Safety proposed regulations are open for public comment until April 18, 2021:

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=201795>

The Department of Administration proposed regulations are open for public comment until April 15, 2021:

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=201750>

Alaskans are encouraged to submit their comments by following the directions posted online and published. Alaskans may also ask questions about the regulations by submitting them in writing at least 10 days before the respective public comment deadlines; please follow the directions in the public notice. The agencies will provide answers on their websites [and on the Alaska Online



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Public Notice System] before the end of the respective public comment periods; they will aggregate answers to substantially similar questions.

The agencies will review all factual, substantive, and relevant public comment submitted as directed above. The agencies will consider all comments received before deciding whether to adopt or amend the regulations.

We look forward to hearing from you,

AH

Amanda Holland, Acting Commissioner
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